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LYNNE  
TRUSS  
I was a  
hair's breadth  
from Ruud  
PAGE 50

**DR THOMAS  
STUTTAFFORD**  
Transsexuals  
and trusting  
partners  
PAGE 3

**JOE JOSEPH**  
Why Trafalgar  
Square is the  
top place to kiss  
in public  
PAGE 20

**TOMORROW**  
**THE NEW  
KENNEDY  
GLAMOUR**

## Job agency boss joins ranks of Labour's big business donors

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE chairman of Reed Executive, the employment agency, was named last night as the Labour party's latest big business donor.

Labour officials told *The Times* that Alec Reed was giving the party £100,000, lifting to £6 million the total it has raised in individual gifts from business people.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, and Lord

Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, which owns the *Daily Express*, were also named as donors, both of them giving between £25,000 and £50,000.

Mr Blair will today press John Major yet again to refer the issue of party funding to the Nolan committee on standards in public life.

Labour officials revealed the donations hours after John Major had spoken of the "secret fund" that was being used to fund Mr Blair's private office. It was confirmed last

weekend that Mr Blair had received up to £500,000 through a "blind trust" and did not know the donors.

Mr Major said: "They call for openness in funding but have secret funds themselves. I wonder what the parliamentary word for that behaviour is."

But Labour party officials said that it was determined to be open over where its funds were coming from, and were trying to force the Conservatives to do the same.

Professor Reed said last night: "New Labour is firmly in the centre ground, speaking up for the things that matter to the British public. I think Tony Blair is an exceptional leader who has brought hope back to British politics. Given the huge sums the Tories have for their negative campaigning I am doing my bit to help Labour fight back and put the positive vision the country longs for."

Professor Reed's donation is the one of the largest so far announced.

It follows the £1m pledged by the late Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of Chelsea football club, who died last month in a helicopter accident, and Bob Gavron, the publishing millionaire, who donated £500,000. Paul Hamlyn, the publisher, gave £400,000.

Labour is planning to publish all the donations it has received over £5,000 next year but it is to announce them gradually, hoping each time to add to the pressure on the Government.

The money has been raised mainly by a new election fund campaign committee which includes members such as Mr Gavron, Lord Attenborough, the film maker, Michael Levy, head of a music publishing group, and Tom Sawyer, general secretary of the party.

They are backed by a new party business committee which includes members such as Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, Geoffrey Robinson, MP for

Coventry NorthWest and the former chief executive of Jaguar Cars, Professor Reed and Sir David Purnell.

Mr Harding would have served on the committee and had already made several introductions to Labour.

Labour officials said that Mr Blair had been advised that those backing his private office should stay anonymous although he would have been happy for them to be named.

## Major faces revolt over EU debate

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR was last night facing one of the biggest European revolts of his premiership as pro-Europeans united with Eurosceptics to protest against his refusal to allow a Commons debate on the single currency.

Leaders of the backbench 1922 Committee were seeking an early meeting with the Prime Minister after he and Tony Newton, the Commons leader, resisted demands for a full-scale discussion on three directives relating to economic and monetary union (EMU).

In the Commons, Mr Major was openly contradicted by his own side as he claimed that the regulations had already been given "detailed scrutiny" in a rowdy committee session on Wednesday. Both Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown tried to twist the knife and last night Mr Blair wrote to Mr Major, telling him that he must not "cheat" the House of Commons on a proper discussion.

Later a private meeting of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers delivered what Mr Major called a "unanimous and uncompromising" message to Mr Major that he must change his mind.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the committee, and two other officers were asked by the executive of the committee to seek an urgent meeting with Mr Major to convey the full weight of backbench anger. Unusually, they were asked to see him last night.

The Prime Minister was reported to be in no mood to

back down. Conservative sources said last night that Mr Major would be seeing Sir Marcus next week. Sources said: "He will be happy to listen to what the chairman has to say, but for the moment there is nothing to add to what was said this afternoon."

*The Times* understands that several Cabinet ministers were in favour of allowing a separate Commons debate on EMU before the meeting of Europe's finance ministers on December 2. But they were overruled by the Prime Minister and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Mr Blair echoed the view of Tory Eurosceptics such as John Redwood that Mr Major was refusing the debate because he did not want to expose the pro-European Mr Clarke to sensitive questions in the Commons on the single currency. He said: "In view of the extraordinary importance of the European reports on a single currency — matters which may be decided by ministers in December — would you agree on reflection that it would be quite monstrous to deny this House a chance to debate in full, in fact, the preparation for a single currency."

In the Commons, Mr Major was contradicted by David Heathcoat-Amory, the former minister who resigned over Europe. The MP had been present at the Commons Standing Committee B which looked at the regulations on Wednesday and he told Mr Major, to cheers from his colleagues, that there had been "proper scrutiny".

The Government has to table a motion stating that the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Peter Riddell, page 13  
Leading article, page 23

BY EMMA WILKINS AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

DIANE BLOOD, the widow who fought a court battle for the right to use her dead husband's sperm to conceive, was distraught last night after being told she would not be able to take the sperm abroad for artificial insemination.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority decided that Mrs Blood, 30, should not be allowed to travel to the Continent to receive fertility treatment.

Mrs Blood, whose husband Stephen died 18 months ago of bacterial meningitis, had spoken of her optimism after the authority said it was going to review the issue at the end of October.

However, last night her father Michael McMahon said the Human Embryology had contacted them with their final decision. Diane is extremely upset, very disappointed and outraged at the way the authority has behaved. Even though she was

trying not to be too optimistic, inevitably she had her hopes up high — they have just been dashed.

Her mother is with her now, trying to comfort her and tell her that it's not the end but she is obviously in a very emotional state.

The authority have not even given any of their rea-

sons for turning her down and we think that is especially outrageous," he added.

The fight will now go to the Court of Appeal, he said.

The authority is bound by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act to disallow the use of sperm in Britain unless the donor has given his written consent. However, in cases where sperm is to be exported or imported, it has discretionary powers.

The authority decided last month to reconsider Mrs Blood's case after considerable media coverage of her plight. After the High Court turned down her application, Baroness Warnock and Lord Winston, both fertility experts, spoke out in Mrs Blood's support.

The authority, which called a press conference last night, abandoned its plans when a spokeswoman discovered that Mrs Blood had not yet been informed of its decision. The authorities have not yet

## Widow is barred from taking sperm abroad

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE closure of the Channel Tunnel has brought a return to the boom times for Dover with record numbers of cars and lorries bound for France pouring into the struggling Kent port yesterday.

Passenger numbers have also leaped by more than 50 per cent since Monday's blaze. In total, ferries to and from Dover carried 44,734 passengers, 8,389 cars and 302 coaches.

Safety failure, page 7  
Letters, page 23

## TIMES EUROSTAR TICKET OFFER

Eurostar said yesterday that it would honour all valid free ticket applications made under the current *Times* offer despite the temporary suspension of services caused by the closure of the Channel Tunnel. In addition, Eurostar has agreed to extend the time the offer can be taken up by four months to August 31, 1997. As the authorities have not yet

announced the reopening of the tunnel for Eurostar services it is possible that availability of travel on free tickets before Christmas may be affected. Readers should continue to apply for tickets as previously announced. Full travel details will be included in the packs which will be sent with the ticket voucher.

Today's token, page 39

ARTS ..... 41-43  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 45  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 45-50, 52  
EUROSTAR TOKEN ..... 39  
LAW REPORT ..... 40

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47  
9 770140 046350  
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WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORD ..... 26, 52



Mrs Blood: optimism  
after court failure



Jemima Khan, wife of the former Pakistan cricketer turned politician, leaving Portland Hospital in London yesterday with their first baby, a boy named Sulaiman Isa

## Channel fire boosts fortunes of Dover

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

In a reversal of fortunes, the port of Dover, which has seen almost half its business lost to the tunnel in the past two years, reported handling an all-time record of 5,484 lorries yesterday.

Passenger numbers have also leaped by more than 50 per cent since Monday's blaze. In total, ferries to and from Dover carried 44,734 passengers, 8,389 cars and 302 coaches.

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LAW REPORT ..... 40

## More children from better off homes expelled

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

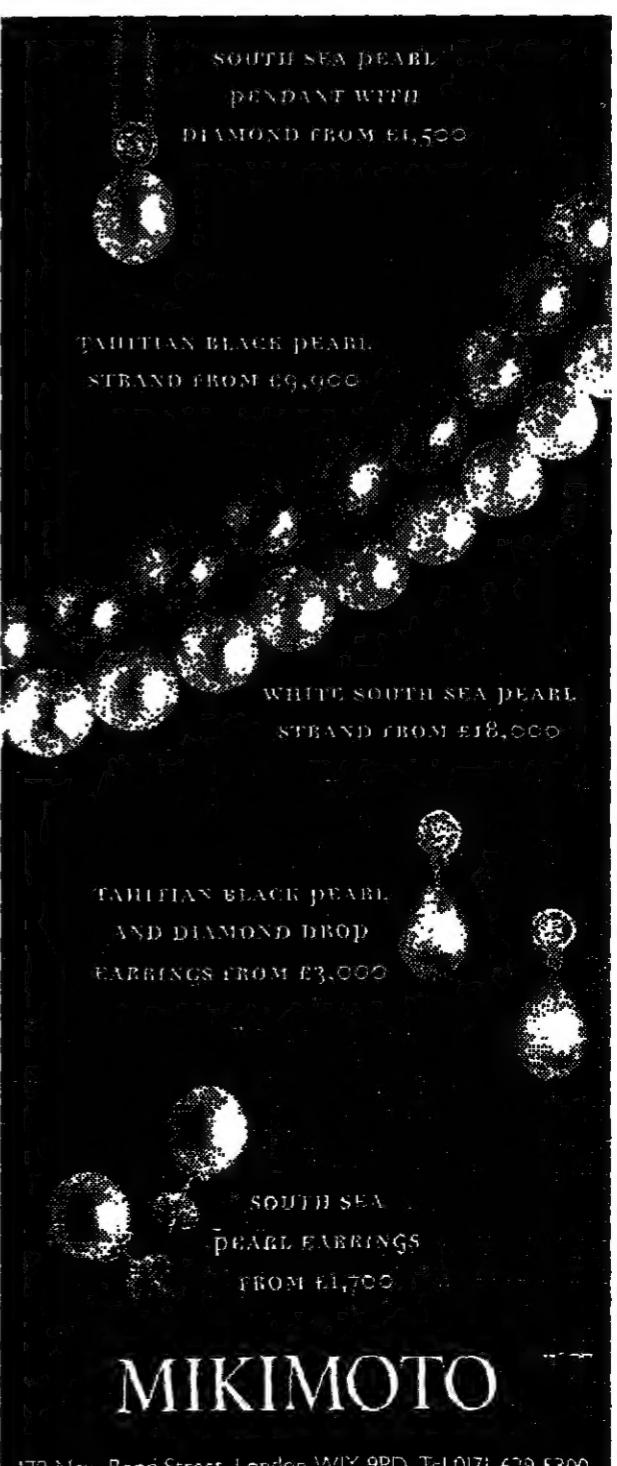
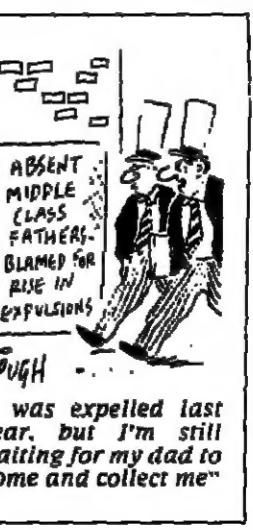
THE growing ranks of expelled pupils are being swelled by disruptive children from middle-class backgrounds who lack fathers as role models, Ofsted, the school inspection agency, said yesterday.

Government figures confirmed yesterday that expulsions have more than tripled since 1990, with 11,084 children banned from their schools in 1994-95.

David Moore, a senior inspector with Ofsted, said that schools in affluent areas were increasingly banning children. Research showed that those involved often had fathers absent either through work commitments or marital breakdown.

Mr Moore was speaking at the launch of an Ofsted study which said that some schools were not ready to expel and blamed boring lessons for encouraging disruptive behaviour. His findings echoed warnings from independent school heads that "opulent neglect" was causing a wave of unruly behaviour in exclusive schools.

Tony Evans, chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of leading independent schools, spoke this year about the danger to classroom order posed by parents too busy



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# Female 'husband' fooled wife for 17 years, judges told

By DANIEL McGROarty

A TRANSEXUAL whose 17-year marriage to a wealthy society heiress ended when his wife discovered "he" was a woman who wore a fake penis lost his claim in the Court of Appeal yesterday for a share of their marital home.

The 50-year-old "husband" said that he would now take his case to the European Court of Human Rights for the money and access to his two children. They were born after the wife was artificially inseminated after telling a fertility clinic her husband had had a vasectomy.

She had admitted being sexually inexperienced and believed her husband was either "deformed or just very small". In fact, her husband had been born and brought up as a girl, though by the age of 17 was living as a man and using a improvised prosthesis to have sex with women.

He later underwent hormone treatment and had both breasts removed before meeting his future wife at a restaurant where they were both working.

The wife, who is heiress to an estate worth "tens of millions", only discovered her husband's true sexuality after



Lord Justice Ward was "astonished".

A family row prompted her to hire a private detective who found his birth certificate.

In their 83-page judgement yesterday, the three appeal court judges agreed that the transsexual had deceived his wife and committed perjury at their wedding when he said there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage.

Lord Justice Ward said that although "the plight of the transsexual should command sympathy", his deception had traumatised his wife. "The facts of this case boil down to an attempt to gain benefit

which accrues only through wrongdoing," the judge said.

The action was seen by lawyers as a test over the legalisation of transsexual marriages, recognised by many European countries.

Lord Justice Ward said he had sympathy for both parties in the "sad story", and ruled that neither could be identified in any way so as to protect their children — a boy now aged 9 and a girl aged 4.

The judge recounted how the couple met when the wife was aged 19, eleven years younger than the transsexual, and "an unhappy theology undergraduate disaffected by university". Their sexual relationship began soon after they met. "They began to live together and on July 7, 1977, went through a ceremony of marriage despite opposition from the plaintiff's family."

"Many — and I am one of them — will find it quite astonishing that there was no single occasion in 17 years of life together when her eyes did not see, or her hands or her body feel, or her senses tell her that she was living with a man who had the genital formation of a woman, a man who did not simply have a small or deformed penis, but had no penis at all."

The relationship began to break down in 1994 and the wife petitioned for divorce, telling a close friend of "peculiarities... his nipples, the scars under his arms, the fact that he used an artificial penis and the (blood) stains."

The defendant had never undergone the recommended surgical construction of a penis and retained the genital organs of a woman. He gave evidence how they had sex using a fake penis made of plaster of Paris which he wore constantly.

He contends that after their marriage his wife discovered his vagina while they were in bed. She said, "Do you want to talk about it?" I said 'No'. That was stupid."

His wife denied such an incident and insisted her husband never revealed his true gender. She never saw him naked, she said.

The marriage was formally annulled in October 1994.

All three judges — Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Neill — refused the defendant any financial settlement from the marriage.

Madelaine Rees, who represented the defendant, said after the ruling: "The civil rights of transsexuals have still to be recognised in this country which is why we shall pursue this to the House of Lords if possible, and then certainly to Europe."

All he was seeking was half the value of the house he helped build, about £200,000. His wife has tens of millions and will give him nothing, nor let him see his children."

The UK is almost alone in Europe and the rest of the common law world in refusing to allow the approximately 50,000 transsexuals in the country to change their birth certificates and thus legally marry. In 1996 the European Court of Human Rights said it was not an infringement of rights but Terence Waite, a solicitor, believes the UK will come under pressure over the position. Allowing birth certificates changes would create other legal rights revolving around marriage, children and trusts.

## The women who make sacrifices to live like men

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

IT IS no surprise to doctors to hear that a transsexual woman formed a lasting relationship with another woman and even went through a form of marriage. Twenty years ago a survey showed that nearly all transsexual women who have surgery to change their apparent gender find a female lover, and many establish an enduring partnership with them.

Nor is it rare for children to be involved. Often the partner who plays the "wifely" role already has children of her own. In other instances, as in the case which was heard by the Court of Appeal, children have been conceived as a result of artificial insemination.

What is most remarkable is that the wife in the recent court case was unaware that such "masculine" appearance as her husband had was the result of surgical and medical skills, and not of nature. The wife was apparently deceived by her partner's double mastectomy, and by the masculinisation achieved by hormone therapy. The woman either presumably didn't recognise her partner's dildo for what it was, or thought that it was an essential aid for most men in their sexual activities.

Some older women brought up when sexual mores were very different had a lack of knowledge of anatomy and physiology which is unfertilised.

## Mystery £2.5m lottery winner plays for time

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE secretive widow who claims to be the reluctant winner of £2.5 million on the National Lottery yesterday insisted she had no intention of collecting the money before last night's 11pm deadline.

In a second letter to her local newspaper the 89-year-old woman, understood to be called Enid and from Hull, enclosed part of a lottery ticket bearing the winning numbers with a note saying this proved she would not claim the prize. Camelot staff, however, said it was impossible to judge whether the slip was genuine and could not rule out a hoax.

In her letter to the *Hull Daily Mail*, the "winner" said: "I was very shocked and a little upset to see my letter in the paper and on the news. All I wanted to do was to put the public's mind at rest as to the whereabouts of the ticket."

"But now the matter is out, it's best for all I bring an end to it. I enclose the numbers of

able to later generations. Nearly 40 years ago, when I was a paediatric houseman, an adolescent boy was brought to outpatients by his mother because of grossly abnormal genitalia. I suggested that the deformities should have been noticed earlier, but the mother very reasonably replied that there were only two penises she knew well, her husband's and her son's, and how was she to know which was standard issue?

The transsexual woman, who has often had a mother who found it difficult to express maternal love, has a deeply-rooted conviction that she is a man, despite all the anatomical evidence to the contrary. The woman feels that her genitalia are not only inappropriate to her gender, as she believes it, but actually abhorrent, and she therefore seeks the medical profession's help in order to re-model herself. These women have often worn male clothes from an early age, have camouflaged their gender, and have enjoyed male pursuits while they were growing up.

Female transsexuals have sometimes led very successful careers as men. In one famous case in the 19th century, a woman served as a man in a Scottish regiment and was only found to be female after she was wounded, when it also transpired that she had actually had a baby before joining up.

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# Eurotunnel admits that systems failed in fire

BY JOANNA BALE AND JONATHAN PRYNN

**EUROTUNNEL** admitted yesterday that the train that caused an emergency on Monday was ablate before it entered the tunnel, and that two of its three safety systems had failed. A French magistrate said that an investigation had not ruled out sabotage after reports of an incendiary device being thrown by striking French lorry drivers.

With the tunnel still shut last night to all but a few freight services, Alain Bertrand, operations director, confirmed that security guards said smoke belching from a rear wagon before the lorry shuttle entered the tunnel. The driver was instructed to continue his 40-minute journey rather than stop and reverse out, so that the fire could be tackled more easily in Folkestone rather than in the Tunnel. M. Bertrand said: "He added: "When smoke is



Bertrand: evacuation was successful

detected it is normal procedure that the train should try to reach the other side. Reversing is more dangerous because it means stopping."

This first "safety procedure failed because the driver stopped the train in the tunnel. A power failure, caused by the fire, then crippled the second safety measure, which should have involved automatically uncoupling the burning wagon and continuing to Folkestone with all passengers safely in the lounge wagon.

He added: "We do not know why the driver stopped, but we do understand that a warning light went on in his cab telling him to do so. Part of that system is connected to the bridge plates on the side of the wagons which open to enable lorries to be loaded onto them.

The driver stopped in a controlled way in front of the door leading to the service tunnel. Further issues on which the authority required fresh information included fire prevention and smoke dispersal systems in the tunnel, the list of materials and cargos that can be transported through the tunnel, and the safety of the lattice-sided wagons involved in the accident. Jeremy Beech, the Kent county fire Officer, and a member of the authority, is known to have long harboured doubts about the wagons on the grounds that they allow fire to spread too easily.

Investigations into the cause of the fire continued yesterday under the authority of a French judge. One of the examining magistrates involved in the case, Gerald Lesigne, said that he had not ruled out sabotage: "We believe the fire started on the lower part of a lorry on the upper part of a wagon. There is no evidence of an incendiary device but we haven't been able to rule that out."

Contractors are expected to remove the nine wagons still inside the tunnel next week after rebuilding buckled tracks. Damaged power cabling was said to have been bypassed, but the damage to the concrete lining of the tunnel had not yet been fully investigated.

Eurotunnel executives yesterday continued to gather documentation requested by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority before it will give the go ahead to Le Shuttle. Eurostar and shuttle train services recommenced. Despite 13 hours of intensive talks on Wednesday and the delivery of hundreds of documents detailing safety procedures, three out of the four Channel Tunnel train services remained halted last night. Container freight services were the only revenue-earning trains moving, about three an hour in each direction.

Eurostar said it had stopped taking bookings until the end of the month, and had given up forecasting when the service would be running again. It emerged that marathon

## TUNNEL SERVICES: PASSENGERS

Eurostar services are operated jointly by the state railways of France and Belgium and a private British consortium, London & Continental Railways. Shareholders include Virgin and National Express. The electric trains can reach 180mph, and travel at 100mph during their 20-minute journey through the tunnel. They do not carry vehicles. The trains link London Waterloo with the Gare du Nord in Paris and Gare du Midi in Brussels. By last week the services had been stepped up to between 14 and 16 departures a day in Paris and between six and eight in Brussels. Through services from Scotland and the Midlands are to start next year.

## CAR TRAINS

Eurotunnel operates a fleet of nine Le Shuttle trains between Folkestone and Calais for travellers in cars and coaches. The service runs round the clock, 365 days a year, and before the fire had reached a frequency of about 60 trains a day in each direction. Vehicles are driven on to the half-moon-shaped train. The drivers and passenger can stay in their cars or wander around the carriage during the 35-minute crossing. The carriages are divided by fire doors designed to contain a blaze for at least 30 minutes. After a marathon, the service has become hugely successful, carrying about 45 per cent of the Calais traffic – and up to 100 coaches a day.

## FREIGHT SHUTTLE

The Eurotunnel lorry shuttle is, like the car trains, a driver service. Drivers manoeuvre their vehicles onto the "lattice-sided" wagons. It was one of these trains that was involved in the accident on Monday night, and the flames were still burning when Eurotunnel was removing about 100 lorries a day in each direction before the accident, involving a total of about 2,000 trucks. Unlike car shuttles, passengers on the freight service travel separately from their vehicles. After driving them onto board the truck is passed to a "club car" immediately behind the front locomotive, where they are seated a seat during the journey.

## FREIGHT CONTAINERS

A British Rail subsidiary, Rail Freight Distribution, in partnership with the French state railway SNCF, operates about 20 container freight trains a day. These are mainly long-distance services carrying goods such as cars and aggregates to Italy and Spain. They have no passengers and so were the first allowed back into the tunnel. The service lost £60 million last year and is being privatised.

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Only the best get Army rates of pay. Anybody still with us? Then you're somebody we'd like to talk to.

TA OFFICERS

## Loss of legal aid threatens mother's £2m damages case

By FRANCES GIBB

A WOMAN who has fought for 18 years to pursue a medical negligence claim for £2 million for her severely brain-damaged daughter has lost her legal aid two weeks before the start of her High Court action.

Wendy Railton, of Wellington, Somerset, said the decision with the case ready to proceed and five medical experts lined up to give evidence, has devastated her. "This was my only hope to give her some kind of a future."

Ms Railton's daughter, Tanya, was brain damaged at birth 18 years ago. It took several years to obtain the medical records and five different firms of solicitors to succeed in obtaining the necessary evidence to mount a claim. But two weeks ago, after spending £60,000 in legal aid funds, the authorities revoked her certificate because leading barristers advised against her chances of winning.

Guy Eskell, Ms Railton's solicitor, said: "Unless she can raise money to take out insur-

ance against the possibility of losing, then she will be deprived of the chance to do everything she wants to for her daughter."

Tanya was born almost dead at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey. The hospital and health authority strongly deny negligence but Ms Railton's lawyers maintain that tests show medical records have been altered.

Ms Railton is prepared to sell her house to pay for the legal costs but this could not be done in time for the trial date of November 25. She is now investigating the cost of legal expenses insurance but would need £50,000.

Tanya, who is in a wheelchair with a displaced hip and curvature of the spine, is looked after by a full-time carer. She has been confined to home since she was 11. A damages award would provide the equipment to improve her quality of life, plus ensure her care for the future. "Otherwise I will just have to sit back and watch her get worse," Ms Railton said.



Wendy Railton with her daughter Tanya, who was severely brain damaged at birth 18 years ago

## Mother and baby 'put at risk by feuding surgeon'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SURGEON was accused yesterday of putting the lives of a mother and her baby at risk when he refused to carry out an emergency Caesarean while another doctor was in the operating theatre.

The operation was delayed 20 minutes while the two doctors had a row outside the theatre, overheard by the mother. The baby girl, who was in the breech position, was eventually delivered blue and requiring resuscitation. She is now in good health.

Mr Debraj Chatterjee, 58, a GP and part-time consultant surgeon, is accused of serious professional misconduct at the General Medical Council in London. He allegedly ordered Dr Francis Tierney out of the theatre at Dailisburgh Hospital in South Uist in the Western Isles, and told nurses that if he did not leave they could order an air ambulance to take the patient to Glasgow.

Linda Dobbs, counsel for the GMC, said that on July 8, 1994, the mother was taken to the hospital when her waters broke and a midwife at her



Dr Tierney, left, and Mr Chatterjee: the mother heard them arguing as she waited for help

home reported the baby was in the breech position. Staff were unable to contact Mr Chatterjee, who had no telephone at his surgery. A nurse was despatched by car 20 miles to alert him.

Meanwhile, Sister Muriel MacLeod telephoned Dr Tierney, a GP and part-time anaesthetist, to call him to assist if necessary in a vaginal breech delivery. He was met at the main door by the sister who told him that she had

managed to contact Mr Chatterjee and a caesarean section had been decided on. Another anaesthetist, Dr Narinder Bedi, was on hand by then to assist. The two anaesthetists agreed their roles — Dr Tierney would look after the baby while Dr Bedi would care for the mother.

Dr Tierney went to a consulting room to change. There he found Mr Chatterjee and an exchange of words culminated in Mr Chatterjee saying:

"I am not going to operate on this woman while you are in the hospital. I want you out."

His colleague replied: "It's not your hospital."

Mr Chatterjee stormed out of the room. A nurse put her head round the consulting room door shortly afterwards to tell Dr Tierney: "He has told us he is not going to do anything. He is adamant."

Dr Tierney went into the theatre and waited for over 20 minutes. The impasse was broken after Brian Liddell, the general manager, asked Dr Tierney through a nurse to stand down.

The operation was performed by Mr Chatterjee. Dr Tierney then received a message from a nurse to go into the theatre, where he found the baby was not breathing. It took 15 minutes for Dr Tierney to get her lungs working and resuscitate her.

Dr Tierney said the atmosphere between them had always been professional, but the relationship was strained. Mr Chatterjee has since been dismissed by the Western Isles Health Board and lost a case at an industrial tribunal. The hearing continues.

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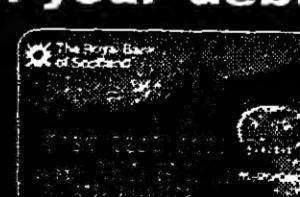
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3. \_\_\_\_\_
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## Over-30s have less chance of test-tube baby, say scientists

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TEST-TUBE baby treatment cannot turn back the clock for ageing women, researchers have found.

Success rates for *in vitro* fertilisation plummet as women age, because of effects on the egg and the womb. Women over 35 have a sharply reduced chance of conceiving artificially, as do those who try the natural way. A study of 37,000 cycles of IVF treatment carried out in Britain up to 1994 showed that success rates were highest for women aged 30 and under.

Much of the attention given to *in vitro* fertilisation has focused on the skill of individual specialists and the success of different techniques. But Allan Templeton and colleagues in the University of Aberdeen's obstetrics and gynaecology department say that the characteristics of the couples seeking treatment are equally important.

The researchers examined the records of all IVF treatments carried out in Britain from 1991. The overall success rate per IVF treatment was 14 per cent but women aged 30 and under were more likely to succeed. The highest success rates were 17 per cent for those aged 30 and 16 per cent for those aged 25. By the age of 35 the rate falls to 14 per cent but then drops steeply to 7 per cent at 40 and 2 per cent at 45. The

Cervical cancer may be going undetected because smears taken from women are inadequate for making a diagnosis. Peter Sasieni, a scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, says. Figures showed that more than one in three cervical smears in some parts of the country were rejected, partly because of poor smear-taking. Of 4.5 million smears in 1994-95, more than 250,000 were rejected.

Rates varied among 183 laboratories from 0.2 per cent to more than 35 per cent.

Latest figures show that in 1994 more than 10,000 cycles of treatment were given to women over 35.

The researchers, writing in *The Lancet*, say they found that older women could significantly improve their chances by using a donated egg. In Britain, regulations require that women who donate eggs are 35 or under. There was still a downward trend in success rates among women over 30 using donated eggs, suggesting an ageing effect on the womb making it less receptive.

Women who had been pregnant before, especially those

who had had a previous child by IVF, had a greater chance.

The cause of infertility did not seem to affect a woman's chances of success but with each failure of IVF her chances diminished.

In a commentary on the study, Marsden Wagner, a specialist from Copenhagen, said that the introduction of new techniques since 1994, such as the microscopic injection of sperm into the egg, were unlikely to have influenced the success rates.

Abortions on women living in England and Wales rose by 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of the year, following last year's scare over the Pill. It was the highest level since 1991. Family planning experts believe that thousands stopped taking the Pill after a warning from the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines that some low-dose versions could double the risk of a potentially fatal blood clot.

The Government came under fire at the time for releasing the research without first alerting GPs.

An American team has tracked down a gene that predisposes men to prostate cancer, the third commonest form of cancer in males. The discovery may eventually help to identify individuals at risk and develop treatment.

## Accident-prone hospitals cost the health service £150m a year

MORE than a million accidents happen in NHS hospitals each year, costing £150 million to treat, according to the first investigation into safety standards.

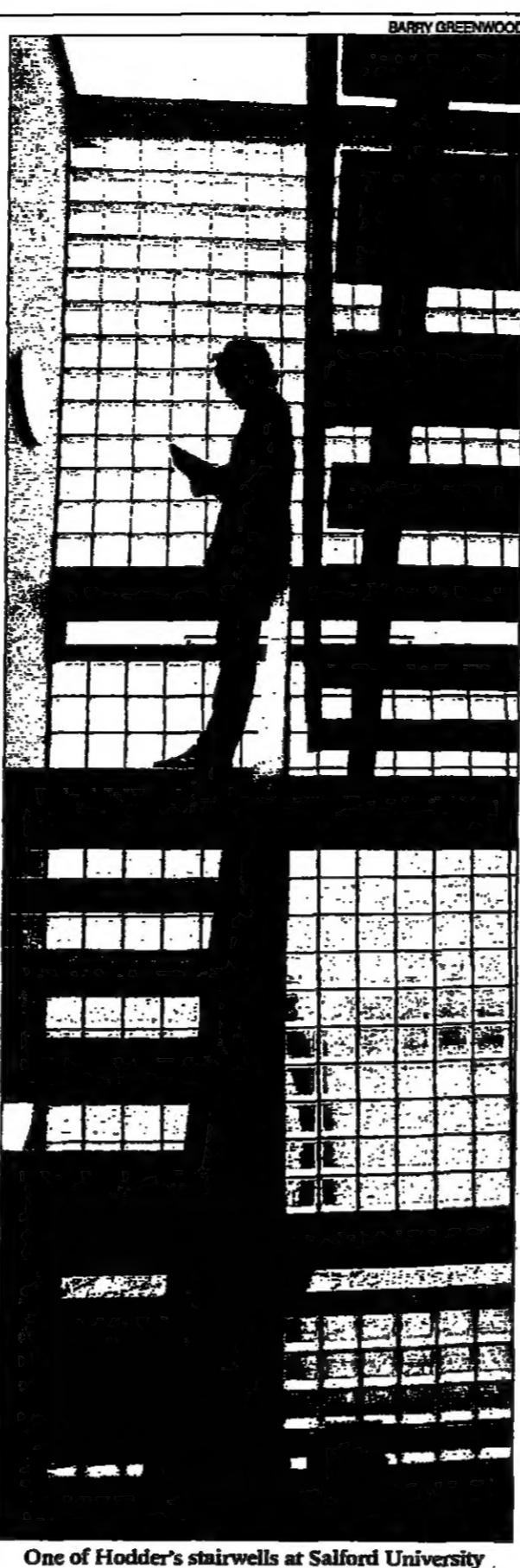
The investigation by the National Audit Office found that most NHS trusts were failing to meet health and safety standards laid down in law. The study, which examined 30 NHS hospitals over

eight weeks, found that 75 per cent of accidents involved patients or visitors. Most suffered minor injuries in slips, trips and falls, although some had broken bones and head cuts. Inpatients were particularly vulnerable because they could be disorientated by drug treatment.

The report said that hospital managers could do more to reduce risks by providing non-

slip flooring, improving cleaning techniques and urging training staff to be more safety conscious.

Staff most commonly suffered injuries from hypodermic needles and back problems caused by lifting patients and equipment. Of the 30 hospitals visited, 23 complied with less than half of the health and safety rules on manual handling.



One of Hodder's stairwells at Salford University

## Architecture's outsider on stairway to success

BY MARCUS BINNEY

A YOUNG outsider has beaten the rising stars and established names of British architecture to win the £20,000 prize for the Royal Institute of British Architects' Building of the Year.

The new Stirling prize, sponsored by *The Sunday Times*, is intended as architect's answer to the Turner and Booker prizes. Bookmakers had quoted Sir Michael Hopkins's Queen's Building at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as 10-1 favourite.

However the judges chose differently, awarding the prize to Stephen Hodder of Manchester for the centenary building at Salford University, which houses the design faculty, prompting the comment from RIBA: "Red brick has beaten Oxbridge."

Owen Luder, the institute's president and one of the judges, said: "It is a low cost, fast build and an excellent example of what architects do best: making three-dimensional use of space."

"It is a building that invites you to explore. Wherever you walk you get a different vista."

*The Architects' Journal* recently described Mr Hodder as "one of a small posse of uncompromising modernists based in Manchester's Cast-Field quarter - part of the region's Brinck". Praise his pursuit of the rational, minimal and modern.

Initially the £3.5 million centenary building was intended to house the schools of electronics engineering and industrial design. But before he knew it, Mr Hodder was building for the design faculty.

The striking bowed front now contains lecture rooms and studios while inside a gorge-like atrium, overlooked by galleries and criss-crossed by bridges, runs through the building.

Mr Luder continued: "The Hodder building lifts a whole rundown area, providing an example for others to follow. In the Eighties, some



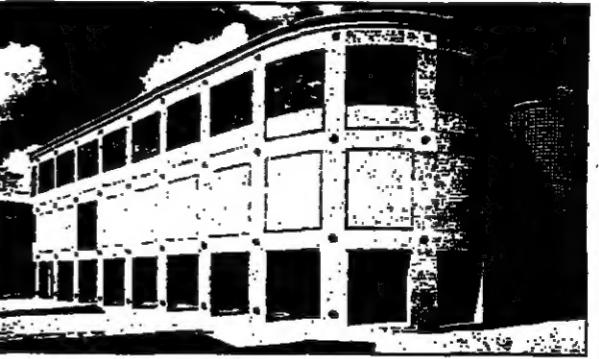
Hodder: modernist

new buildings wanted to use every material under the sun." By contrast, Mr Hodder's design is strongly monochrome, using stainless steel panels and glass to create reflections and refections.

According to *The Architects' Journal*: "The user has an acute awareness of weather conditions" which not everyone would consider a



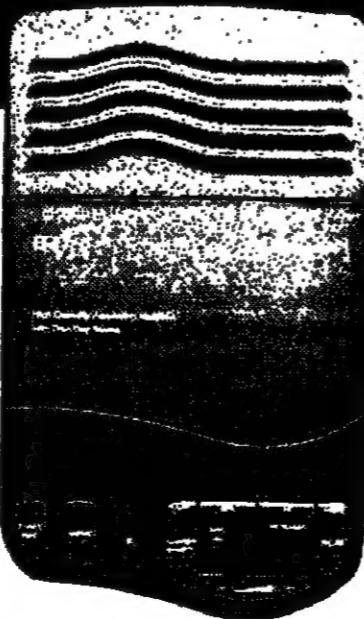
Centenary Building at Salford University, above, which beat the Queen's Building, Cambridge



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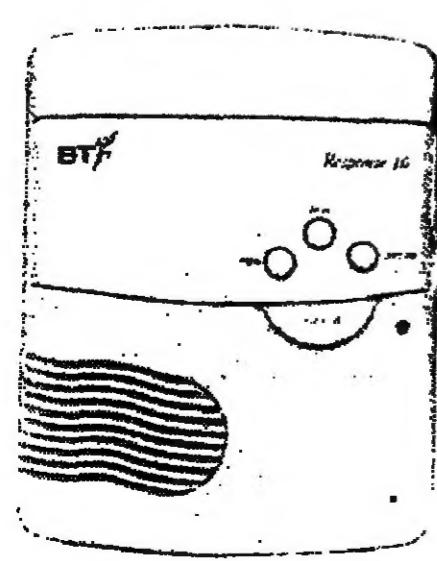
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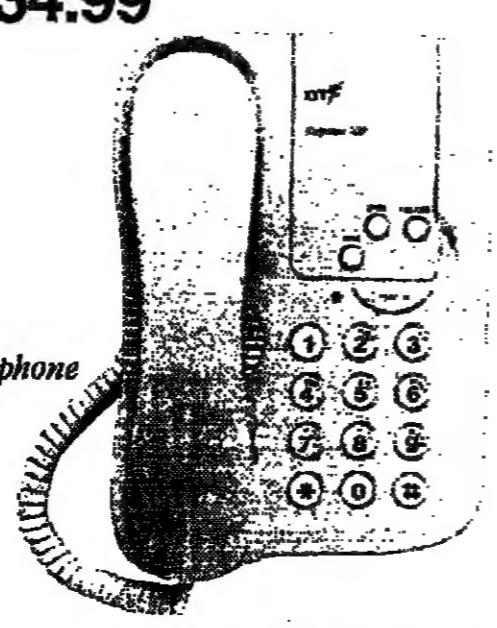
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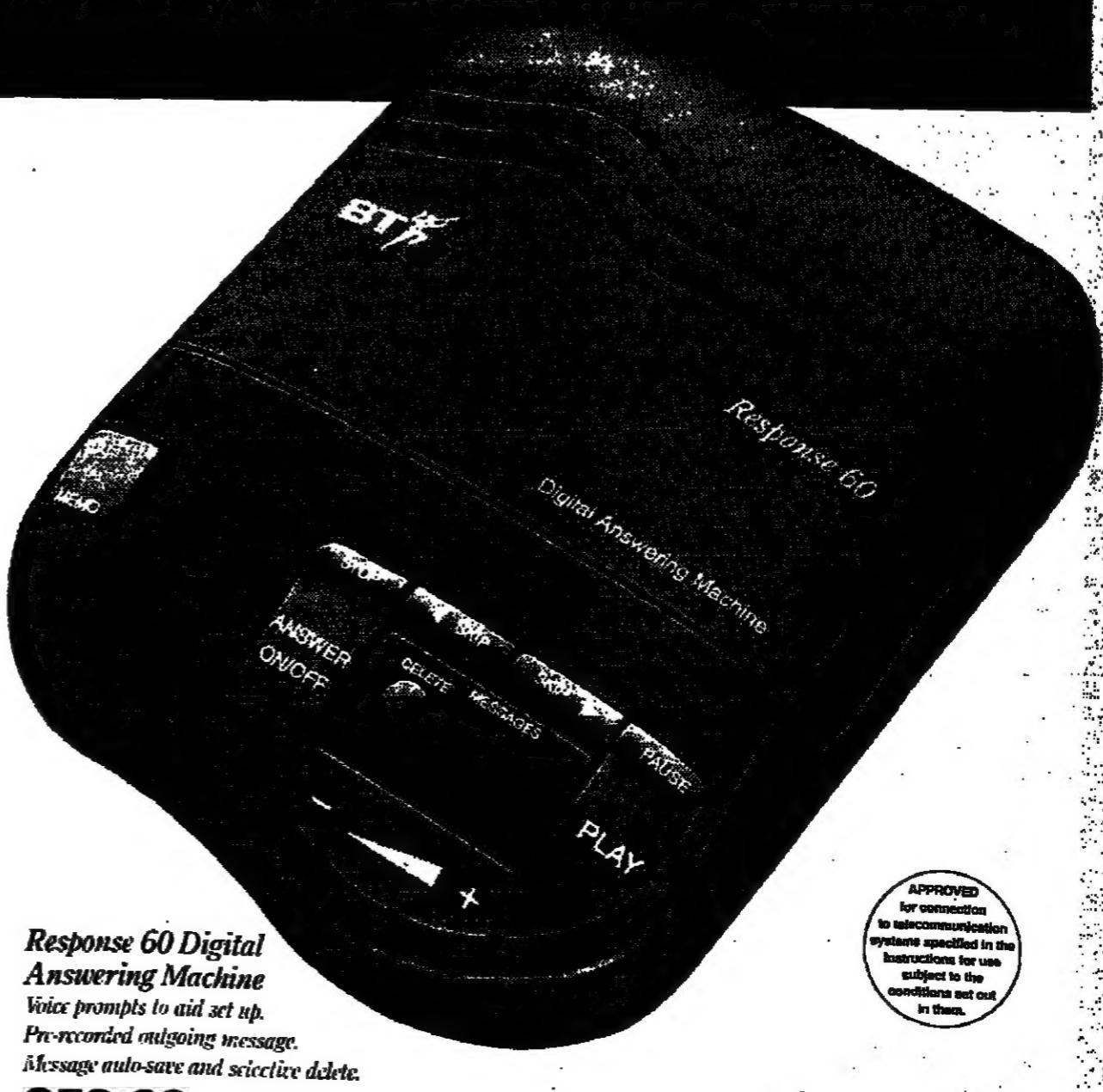
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## Term-time jobs put more money into students' pockets

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS today have a higher income than those who studied at the end of the 1980s, according to an independent report that dismisses claims that thousands live in poverty. It found that an increasing number were taking jobs during term-time.

The survey by the Policy Studies Institute found that only mature students had less money in real terms than the class of 1988-89. Those under 26 had a higher income and more than a third did not take out a student loan.

However, the study, sponsored by the Department for Education and Employment, acknowledged that the improvement in income had come at a price. Today's students were deeper in debt and worked longer hours in part-time employment than their predecessors.

Claire Callender and Elaine Kempson, the report's authors, said that the apparently manageable financial position

of most students masked areas of hardship. Lone parents in particular were finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet and owed ten times more than the average student.

The average student received £3,615 from all sources in 1995-96, but spent £5,091. The gap was bridged by student loans, commercial credit and delayed payment of bills.

The report said that the amount received in grants, student loans and parental contributions roughly covered essential costs such as accommodation, food and course expenses. But students spent more than £2,500 on other items, such as entertainment. More than £500 was spent on alcohol and tobacco, but this was no higher than other low-income young people.

The proportion of income from grants had fallen since the last survey, but families had stepped in to meet part of the shortfall. Eight out of ten

Education, page 39



Sheena Rae was taunted by girls jealous of her hair

## Adverts don't sell say whiz-kids who lost their spark

By CAROL MIDGLEY

FEWER than a third of advertising executives believe their campaigns help to sell products, a survey has revealed. Instead they are plagued by self-doubt and insecurity, and dream of giving it all up for another career.

In spite of their "whiz-kid" image, the survey of 600 advertising employees from 50 agencies found the industry weary from overwork. More than half use drugs or know a colleague who does.

Forty per cent of women said sex discrimination was rife and 73 per cent described advertising as a "terrible career" for working mothers, because of its unpredictability and 12-hour days.

Although spending on advertising by Britain's leading 100 companies has increased by 15 per cent on last year, only 26 per cent of advertising employees were prepared to say that they genuinely believed the campaigns were effective.

Dominic Mills, editorial director of the industry's trade magazine, *Campaign*, which conducted the survey, said: "We know that people were down but we didn't realise it was this bad. This is an industry plagued by self-

doubt. The Eighties image of the garrulous ad executive in red glasses and braces is no more. What this survey reflects is a high level of insecurity. Advertising is a very fragile business and confidence is everything."

"It is staggering to think that so many people in advertising believe their efforts are falling short of the mark but this is clearly what people privately think. There is an element of them shooting themselves in the foot by admitting this but part of it can be blamed on frustration, with many advertisers requesting safe solutions. The London advertising scene used to be among the most innovative in the world."

Mr Mills said that between 1990 and 1992, a fifth of people in the advertising industry lost their jobs. Asked what job they would most like to do instead, the survivors said they would become barristers, writers, actors or artists. Forty-four per cent are Labour voters, 38 per cent Conservative and 10 per cent Lib Dem.

Salaries ranged from £750,000 for shooting commercials and £159,000 for a creative director to juniors on £15,000.

## Canada wants to kill up to 400,000 seals next spring. Please help us stop them.

Out of 268,921\* seals officially killed in Canada last spring, about 75%\*\* were baby seal pups... just days or weeks old. Now the Canadians want to expand the slaughter up to 400,000\*. As if this is not bad enough in itself, the international fur dealers are working behind the scenes to get the European trade ban on "whitecoat" and "blueback" seal pups lifted, so their skins can once again be sold in the UK.

Key decisions will be made in the next few weeks, so your help is vital.

Help IFAW end this mass slaughter of the innocent seal babies.

S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

FREEPHONE today 0500 18 18 18. Expose Canada's Shame.

Source: IFAW, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Seal Hunt Monitoring Report, 28th October 1995.

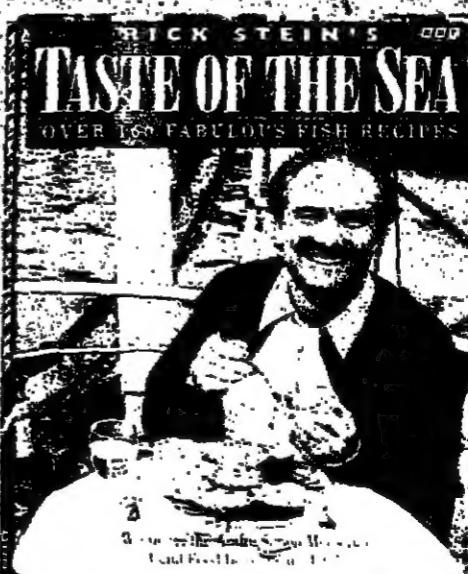
\*Source: 200 Seal Hunt License and Seal Hunted in 1994. Source: 1994 Seal Hunt Report, Newfoundland Department of Fisheries, May 21, 1995.

\*\*Source: IFAW, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Seal Hunt Monitoring Report, 28th October 1995.

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## Courts may order ten-year-olds to wear electronic tags

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JUVENILES as young as ten could be issued with electronic tags under government proposals to keep offenders off the streets and away from football matches.

The plan extends the existing tagging scheme to the 10 to 15-year age group and would make it part of curfew orders. Offenders could have to wear the tags at school, at night and on weekends.

However, probation officers said it would do nothing to deal with the root causes of offending or antisocial behaviour, while Paul Cavadino of the Penal Affairs Consortium said tags could become a "badge of honour" that would incite rather than deter.

David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, said tagging linked to a curfew order would be an effective punishment. "We believe that curfew orders could be an effective way of keeping young offenders off the streets or away from places such as shopping centres and football matches where they may get up to no good."

"It would punish them by restricting their freedom and help to prevent them from reoffending. Electronic tagging will detect immediately whether the offender is breaking the curfew," he said.

Mr Maclean said that

young offenders could be forced to stay at home at night or at certain times during the weekend and could also be required to be at school during classroom hours.

Under the proposal, produced as an amendment to the Crime (Sentences) Bill, Youth Courts would be able to impose the order for between two and twelve hours a day. The maximum length of the order would be three months. It would be piloted in some areas before a decision to adopt nationally.

The announcement came after the Government was thrown on the defensive by an Audit Commission report condemning the juvenile justice system as "inefficient" and ineffective.

Mr Cavadino said tagging was one of the worst ideas yet to tackle juvenile crime. "These young people will have to attend school with the tag attached to their wrist or ankle, branding them as an offender," he said. "Some children will undoubtedly boast about their tag and wear it as a badge of honour, adopting a 'hard' image to live up to."

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers said tagging would humiliate young offenders

and do nothing to address the cause of antisocial behaviour. "The Government has failed to deal with youth crime. The introduction of tags for 10 to 15-year-olds is ample testimony to that failure," he said. "It appears to have run out of constructive ideas."

Trials involving the electronic tagging of offenders aged 16 and over have been operating since July last year in Greater Manchester, Berkshire and Norfolk.

A total of 220 offenders have been given curfew orders, of which 98 have been completed, 90 are under way and 27 were breached and the offender returned to court. A further three orders were quashed on appeal and two were void.

Charles Rose, managing director of Geografix, the company involved in the Norfolk pilot project, said his firm would be interested in extending the trials to the new age group.

□ The maximum penalty for indecent assault on a man by a juvenile offender aged between 10 and 17 is to increase to ten years' detention, Mr Maclean announced. At present the maximum is two years' detention for offenders aged 15 to 17. There is no custodial penalty for 10 to 14-year-olds.



Joanne Cholerton, investigative psychologist. "Cracker makes me laugh"

Don't call me Cracker says new investigator

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IT COULD be a plot for a new television series: a woman newly qualified as an investigative psychologist starts working for the police in a northern town. But yesterday Joanne Cholerton was resisting attempts to label her as a bit of a Cracker.

The new recruit has begun helping officers to compile profiles of offenders, but she says that any similarity with the workload of the TV psychologist played by Robbie Coltrane ends there.

"I do watch Cracker, which makes good drama, but it's not because it has much to do with my work," Miss Cholerton, 23, from Essex, said. "It makes me laugh. Most of the time I'm sitting in front of a computer inputting data and doing statistics."

Her only link with Cracker is that Derek Carter, her professor at Liverpool University, is mentioned in the books that spawned the series. Rather than hunting serial killers face-to-face, she will be analysing data on Hardepool's burglars.

The force says its offender-profile programme is unique in Britain. Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon said: "Joanne will not be directly involved. She will basically supply ammunition for detectives to catch the criminals."

40% of fire emergency calls are a false alarm

By IAN MURRAY

FOUR out of ten 999 calls to report fires are false alarms — nearly a third of them malicious — and a declining number of firemen are having to cope with an increasing number of incidents.

The figures from Cifpa, the public accountancy association, illustrate the strain put on fire services by an average of 1,300 false alarms a day, particularly in inner city and industrial areas.

The problem is greatest in Cleveland, where the potential risk from chemical industries means that the service is allocated more money per head of population than any other. The brigade is called out on average ten times a day by malicious calls and as many times again by alarms set off by over-sensitive monitors.

Malicious calls are also high in Merseyside, where the fire service has to put out proportionately more fires than in any other major city. In Birmingham there are 35 malicious calls a day and in Manchester 27.

The number of callouts nationally has grown by 6 per cent from 1,085,519 to 1,148,512 a year while the number of fire personnel has fallen from 63,517 to 62,837.

## Church finds enemy who became friend

BY JOHN SHAW

A CHURCH'S older parishioners always remembered the moving sound of German prisoners of war singing their own *Silent Night* at midnight mass as they shared Christmas with their British captors.

As the war ended, an unknown POW left behind a 3ft carved statue of St Joseph and Jesus as a gift for the villagers of North Walsham, Norfolk. For more than half a century, the treasured figure has stood at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, with no knowledge of its artist.

Now the two sides have made contact again after a chance discovery. The figure was being sent away for treatment for woodworm when it was turned upside down, revealing a label giving the carver's name and prison number.

Cathy Bateman, a member of the church, led the detective work that identified Adolf Benz, prisoner 101484H in Camp 82 at nearby Worstead. She wrote to the German Embassy and the military

authorities in Berlin to trace Herr Benz, 88, who lives at Gaggenau, near the spa town of Baden-Baden.

He has written to the church saying he was honoured that the statue was still treasured. He remembered carving the figure at the camp after a visit from a priest. "One day a priest came to us with a small figure of St Joseph," he said. "With that in mind, I started working on the big statue, trying to give St Joseph the face of a kindly father. It is really impressive that after such a long time the members of the church still think of the person who carved this in thanksgiving for the end of the war."

Mrs Bateman, who is retired, said: "Finding out about Mr Benz is a great joy."

□ A reconnaissance photograph taken by a German spy plane has been used to prove that a footprint at Shipton Gorge, near Bridport, Dorset, was in use during the war, defeating a landowner's objection to public access.



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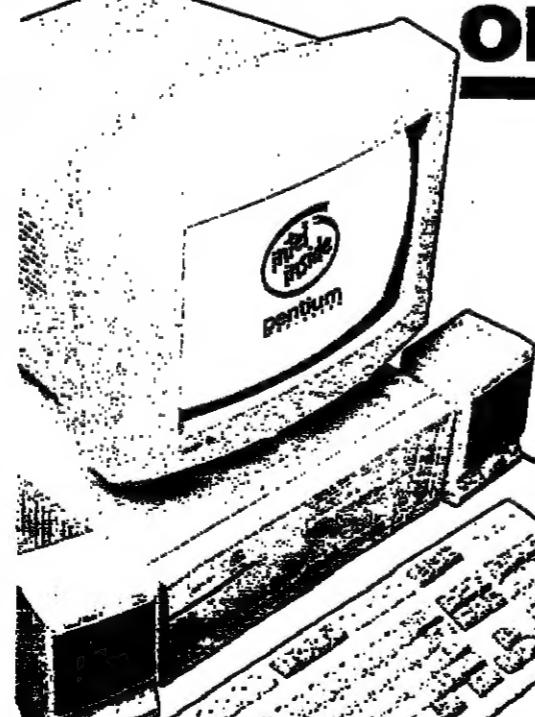
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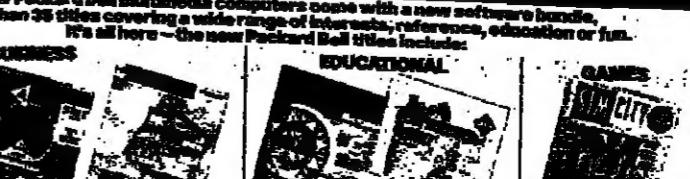
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# More than 50 Holocaust Nazis traced in Canada

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



Hitler: hidden disciples

A NEW YORK-based private detective yesterday claimed to have taped confessions from 58 alleged former Nazis in Canada, many of whom appeared to be guilty of actively taking part in the Holocaust.

Steve Rambam, a bullish private eye who has worked for the US Government, said that he posed as a history professor from a non-existent college in Belize and went knocking on the doors of former German soldiers who are now living in Canada. He secretly tape-recorded their conversations.

Mr Rambam claims that what he found was the equivalent of the communities of old Nazis who fled to South America after the Second World War.

His claims, broadcast in Jerusalem yesterday on Israeli television and to be detailed in today's *Jerusalem Post*, were attacked by one leading Jewish group as "mock heroes" but are likely to revive debate about official attitudes by past Canadian governments to former members of Hitler's armed forces.

Mr Rambam claimed that he found several of the alleged war criminals living in predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods of Montreal and Ottawa. One man, who talked openly about killing Jews in the war, was renting out the top floor of his house to a young rabbi and his family.

Germany will keep open its investigation centre for Nazi war crimes for as long as there are cases to be prosecuted, Ulrich Goll, the Justice Minister for Baden-Württemberg, said. The 16 federal states had decided at a Bonn meeting to maintain the centre near Stuttgart.

The centre's future was in doubt because the number of Nazi trials has fallen and Albert Stein, a former director, died this year. (Reuters)

"They must think it is a good place to hide," he said.

Of 62 people he approached, only four denied their wartime identities, and seven gave detailed accounts of personal involvement in the deaths of Jews, he claimed.

Renata Skomnicka-Zadzman, a leading member of Canada's Jewish community, reacted to the story with shock yesterday. "We have suspected that there were a lot of them, but on my God," she said, on hearing where the suspects lived.

Mr Rambam, 39, added that many of the names of the suspects had long been known to the leading Nazi-hunting organisation, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, but to his surprise they had not acted.

The Toronto branch of the Wiesenthal organisation last night agreed that it had known many names, but ac-

cused Mr Rambam of "bad timing". Sol Litman, head of the Wiesenthal Centre in Ottawa, said that 3,000 Nazi war criminals entered Canada after the war, mostly between 1946 and 1951. He claimed that some of them were admitted after they had helped Allied intelligence operations against Communists.

Mr Rambam started his investigation with a list of 1,000 names. He discovered that 40 were dead, but he has already managed to trace 250 of what he calls "the worst cases".

One of Mr Rambam's interviewees, Antanas Kenstavicius of Hope, British Columbia, is facing deportation from Canada for alleged war crimes while police chief in Sventojiens, Lithuania, in the early 1940s.

Mr Rambam, posing as

Professor Salvatore Romano of the fictitious St Paul's University of the Americas in Belize and accompanied by two Israeli journalists, interviewed Mr Kenstavicius.

According to a tape produced by Mr Rambam, Mr Kenstavicius described the shooting of numerous Jews in Sventojiens, Lithuania, during a six-day period. "Bang! And they fall down," he appears to say on the tape in his broken English. "Some time, repeat, Bang, bang! And they all fall in ditch. All the day. After, there're no mens. Than the women in separate barracks. The kids go with the wives."

Some of the men, apparently not suspecting that "Professor Romano" was anything but genuine, posed for photographs beside their wartime uniforms and provided following snapshots of themselves in the 1940s.

Jewish groups have long criticised past Canadian governments for allegedly accommodating, or at least not prosecuting, former Nazis.

■ Rome: A military judge yesterday ordered the release from house arrest of Karl Hass, 84, a former SS major suspected of involvement in the massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome in March 1944, and ruled that his case should instead be considered by the civil judiciary. (Reuters)



The advertisement promotes a weekend to Paris for those "with nothing to do" — a Bob Dole remark after his poll defeat

## Jobless Dole flies flag for the French

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

States for a long weekend in Paris. It said: "If you have a little extra time on your hands, there's never been a better reason for a getaway to Paris..."

The idea was inspired by the comment Mr Dole made in his concession speech after losing his presidential bid. He said: "Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do."

Alan Blum, president of a New York advertising agency, nervously sent his idea to Washington, seeking permission to use it. Word came back the advertise-

ment was on Mr Dole's desk and he was laughing. Better still, he was happy to go along with the joke.

Mr Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, turned down free round-trip tickets to Paris on Concorde, not part of the special offer to the public, as payment. Instead they asked that a donation of \$3,000 (£1,800) be made to their favourite charity, which provides housing and day care for the low-income elderly in Washington. The sum was extremely modest, given the spin-off publicity for Air France.

## German fury over Iran death threats

FROM ROGER BOYD IN BONN

GERMANY, Europe's main champion of "critical dialogue" with Iran, was yesterday close to abandoning its conciliatory policies after death threats against German prosecutors.

The dispute between Tehran and Bonn has become poisonous. Every day this week about 1,000 supporters of the radical Hezbollah group have besieged the German Embassy in Tehran; almost 300 German expatriates in the same way as Salman Rushdie, the novelist, unless they apologised to Iran.

Prosecutors in Berlin have accused the Iranian regime of steering a hit team that murdered three Kurdish dissident leaders in a restaurant in the city. The verdict is due in January and the Iranian Government is clearly trying to

exert as much pressure as it can to secure the acquittal of the five defendants.

But the efforts have backfired. Carl-Dieter Spranger, the Development Minister, yesterday became the first German Cabinet minister to call publicly for an end to "critical dialogue". He said: "Iran's state terrorism against those who think differently has once again emerged as a result of this trial. The death threats against representatives of German justice are intolerable and show how the Tehran regime tramples on human rights. This removes any basis for so-called critical dialogue."

This policy, agreed at the Edinburgh summit in 1992, was aimed at keeping lines of communication open with Tehran and using that leverage to gain human rights concessions. Yet very little seems to have been achieved: the law against Rushdie remains in force, and there are no signs of Iran restraining militant groups.

The latest threat comes from clerics in the holy Iranian city of Qom, who said that the German prosecutors should be condemned in the same way as Salman Rushdie, the novelist, unless they apologised to Iran.

Prosecutors in Berlin have

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# THE TIMES 2

INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**ECONOMICS**  
Anatole Kaletsky  
on how to raise  
£5bn in extra taxes  
PAGE 31



**ARTS**  
Prince's new album  
shows a regal  
return to form  
PAGE 41-44



**SPORT**  
Becker mixes  
power with a  
touch of glory  
PAGE 45-52

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
50, 51**

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1996



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, offered a tantalising glimpse of plans for the Budget yesterday. They went back in the famous red case until Tuesday

## Safeway store openings to create 5,200 jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**SAFeway**, the supermarket chain that cut its staff numbers 18 months ago, is to create 5,200 jobs through its store opening programme, the company said yesterday.

Since cutting about 5,000 jobs, the company has added 3,200 to its pay roll. After the new round of hirings, which will take place over two years, it expects to have added a net 3,000 staff over a three-year period. This will take its total number of staff to more than 70,000. Around 65 per cent of the new jobs being created will be part-time.

The news follows an announcement earlier this month by Marks & Spencer that it is creating 2,000 new

positions. By contrast Kwik Save, the discount supermarket chain, has revealed plans to shed 1,900 staff.

Safeway, which is profit in the third largest supermarket chain behind Tesco and J Sainsbury and ahead of Asda, is to open ten superstores in the second half of this year, on top of seven opened in the first half. It then aims to open about 15 next year, adding around 450,000 square feet in total.

The company yesterday reported an 7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £228 million in the six months ended October 12.

This was in line with City expectations but nonetheless triggered some upgraded forecasts, with UBS shifting from

£430 million to £440 million for the full year and NatWest Markets also tipping its forecast to £440 million from £432.5 million.

Safeway's like-for-like sales grew 5.1 per cent — close to the sector average — while sales from new space added a further 5.2 per cent growth, taking total sales to £3.5 billion. The petrol price war, which has now abated, knocked £10 million off forecast profits.

In the first five weeks of the second half, like-for-like sales were 5 per cent ahead. The company said food inflation in the period has been subdued but said it considered the second half had started well.

Colin Smith, chief executive, said that after a trial at its

Reigate store, the Safeway self payment system which allows customers to pay for goods without queuing at tills is to be rolled out to all the 100 stores fitted with its Shop & Go system. Shop & Go is designed to speed the shopping process by allowing customers to scan and register the price of goods they pick up as they go around the store. Mr Smith said that there had been less than the company had feared resulting from the scheme.

The company is running a trial in Basildon, Essex, of a convenience store at a BP station. The joint venture set up by the two companies plans to open on some 100 sites within three years.

Gross margins, excluding petrol, were 0.1 per cent down in the first half and remain under pressure because of the company's response to competitors' price campaigns, such as Tesco's Unbeatable Value. However, efficiency savings meant the net margin was stable at 6.9 per cent.

Sales per square foot reached £14.62, close to the £15 target the company set for itself 18 months ago and which it did not expect to achieve for another 18 months. Safeway's ABC loyalty card has now attracted 5.6 million users, the company revealed.

Earnings per share are 9 per cent ahead at 14.5p while the interim dividend has also been boosted 9 per cent to 4.4p. It is payable on February 10.

Pennington, page 27

## Japan closes down commercial bank

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE authorities yesterday closed down an insolvent regional bank crippled by bad loans — the first time an ordinary commercial bank was ordered to halt operations

Anxious depositors rushed to branches of the Hanwa Bank, a second tier bank based in Osaka and Wakayama prefectures in western Japan, but panic was averted by a government promise that all deposits would be secured.

The Ministry of Finance said it suspended all business at the Hanwa Bank, apart from deposits, because its bad loans far exceeded total capital. The problem loans totalled 190 billion yen (£1 billion), compared with total capital of Y20.3 billion yen.

The loans piled up during the 1980s' soaring property

prices. With the collapse in land values, Hanwa was saddled with massive loans that were impossible to recover.

Last year Japan suffered its first bank failure since the war when Hyogo Bank became a casualty. Another small regional bank went under this year. Ten credit unions and one credit association have also failed since December 1994.

Hiroshi Mitsuoka, the Finance Minister, said yesterday that Hanwa's failure ought not to cause anxiety about the stability of Japan's financial system overall. He said the bank's operations would be shifted to a new bank for the purpose of winding up Hanwa's business using the deposit insurance system.

Pennington, page 29

## Consumer spending at highest since 1989

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CONSUMER spending is at its highest since 1989, according to data published yesterday. Increasing City pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to resist making sweeping tax cuts in next week's Budget.

The revised figures for third-quarter gross domestic product show that quarterly consumer spending increased by 1.1 per cent, taking the annual rate to 3.3 per cent.

Separate data also published yesterday, found that the balance of payments surplus in the second quarter was larger than expected, at £793 million — the strongest trading performance for ten years.

The data sent the pound soaring. Sterling's trade weighted index closed up 0.8 at 92.8 after the pound gained more than a cent against the dollar to close at \$1.6892 and

over two pennings against the mark to finish at DM2.5326.

Quarterly GDP growth remained unrevised at 0.8 per cent but annual growth for the third quarter was revised upwards to 2.4 per cent from 2.3 per cent.

Capital investment fell by 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, prompting concern among economists that the gap between consumer demand and investment is widening, increasing the chance of an acceleration in inflation.

There was also a worrying rise in the GDP deflator, a government measure for inflation factored into GDP, which increased to an annual level of 2.9 per cent. But stockbuilding made a positive contribution of 0.2 per cent in the third quarter after destocking knocked 1.2 per cent off GDP in the previous quarter.

## A&L group threatens £100m exit

THE Alliance & Leicester Building Society has accused an action group opposing its plans for conversion of using shock tactics after the group's members threatened to withdraw £100 million of savings (Caroline Merrell writes).

The group, headed by Patrick Mountain, a retired former agent of the society, is objecting to A&L's proposals that most members should get a flat distribution of 250 shares worth about £1,000. The group wants those with bigger savings to receive more shares.

Mr Mountain claims that 1,200 members are planning to withdraw their savings after the meeting to vote on conversion on December 10. A society spokesman said: "This seems like a pretty mean-spirited action ... £1,000 means a great deal to a lot of people."

Pennington, page 29

## Insurers fear ruling on fidelity policies

BY JON ASHWORTH

INSURERS have reacted with alarm to an appeal court ruling that threatens to increase dramatically the sums payable under fidelity policies — those which protect against alleged fraud and dishonesty at companies.

The ruling, stemming from the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's media empire, could lead to insurers paying out to the policy limit for each of a company's subsidiaries, instead of being restricted to one claim. Insurers have been urged to study policy terms.

The alleged plundering of company pension funds featured strongly in the case of New Hampshire Insurance and

others vs Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC), which turned on fidelity insurance taken out by the company. The appeal court ruling raises the possibility that insurers could be liable for multiple limits of indemnity. It is possible that multiple limits of indemnity may be triggered in cases where policies have been incorrectly worded, or where more than one of the insured has suffered loss.

Alan Fisher, partner in the insurance industry group at Dibb Lupin Alsop, said: "This shows that insurers are vulnerable to multiple liability. There is a costly lesson unfolding in front of their eyes, saying 'get the documents right'."

## Bates bemoans penalty for sparing Hoddle pitch

BY JASON NISSE

GLENN HODDLE, the England football manager, insisted on changes to the redevelopment of Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge ground that cost its parent company, Chelsea Village, at least £15 million, Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea, said yesterday.

Mr Bates told Chelsea Village's annual meeting that plans to redevelop Stamford Bridge's south and west stands involved reducing the width of the pitch to the minimum allowed by international football regulations.

Our then manager, Mr Hoddle objected, saying it was not in keeping with the style of play he wanted or

whatever," Mr Bates said, adding that the changes to the plans caused by the extra five metres added to the pitch cost between £15 million and £20 million.

Mr Bates said that Mr Hoddle had since left to manage "some other team", meaning England, "which all goes to show you should not make decisions on short-term considerations".

The Stamford Bridge redevelopment is to cost £50 million. Around £30 million of this is still to be raised. Mr Bates said that he had been approached by a number of investors. Chelsea is building a 160-room hotel, 34 flats, a banqueting suite, shops and offices. "It will be the most overcrowded 12 acres in the world," said Mr Bates.

## MPs attack Rothschild role in coal sell-off

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE all-party Public Accounts Committee yesterday attacked the Department of Trade over the coal sell-off. The MPs also questioned a £2.5 million success fee for NM Rothschild, the merchant bank handling the privatisation, and complained that insolvency investigations into a company involving the brother of the successful bidder were not considered.

The role of Rothschild has already attracted controversy because of the appointment of Lord Wakeham to its board as non-executive director last year. Lord Wakeham was Energy Secretary from 1989 to 1992 when he paved the way for the privatisation of British Coal. He joined Rothschild just six months after leaving the Cabinet. Rothschild was appointed to advise the Government on the future of the coal industry in 1991.

The committee said that

Rothschild valued British Coal's three English businesses at between £371 million and £388 million. RJB Mining, which bought all three of the English businesses that British Coal had been split into, paid £815 million; having originally bid £914 million. Although RJB revised down its bid in the process, other unpreferred bidders were not told of this and had no opportunity to enter the race at an advanced stage.

The committee said that RJB had been prepared to pay a higher premium to get all three and that such an approach should have been anticipated.

The committee attacked payments to NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, which received £9.7 million in fees and a £2.5 million success bonus. The conditions for the success bonus were agreed after two conditions had been completed by Rothschild.

The committee criticised a condition that was agreed in the timetable for the sale. Success had been agreed to be achieved by the autumn of 1993. The success criteria were not formally agreed until June 1994, by which time two of the stages which had been used as the basis for the success fee criteria had been completed.

Rothschild was given the full remit for the privatisation after completing preliminary work. Other potential banking advisers were not invited to tender for the full process or to set out their charges.

The committee expressed

Pennington, page 29

## BUSINESS TODAY

	FTSE 100	3853.8	(-9.0)
Yield	4.01%	1.59	(-3.47)
All shares	159.1	1.16	(-4.62)
Midcap	2146.3	1.04	(-4.56)
New York	5405.05	24.57	(-1.36)
Dow Jones	741.95	7.45	(-1.36)
S&P Composite	741.95	7.45	(-1.36)

	Federal Funds	5.14%	(5.14%)
Long Bond	101.14	1.01%	(1.01%)
Yield	6.41%	(6.41%)	

	3-month Interbank	6.17%	(6.17%)
Libor long gilt future (Dec)	110.14	(110.14)	

	New York	1,688.07	(1,688.07)
London	1,688.07	(1,688.07)	
DM	2,533.00	(2,533.00)	
FF	8,498.44	(8,498.44)	
Yen	121.40	(121.40)	
S Index	92.8	(92.8)	

	Tokyo close Yen	111.50
London close	111.50	(111.50)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Storhouse up

Booming overseas franchise sales and a stronger contribution from British Home Stores helped Storhouse, the retail group, to better than expected results for the first half. Pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to £27.5 million on turnover ahead by 14 per cent.

Page 2

## Manufacturing is on the mend, says CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S manufacturers are continuing to recover as company order books return to normal, new evidence from the Confederation of British Industry suggests today.

With manufacturing continuing to underperform the rest of the economy, the improvement recorded by the CBI will please ministers in advance of Tuesday's Budget.

In its latest monthly trends survey, the CBI shows that 24 per cent of the 1,100 manufacturer-

ing companies examined say that their order books are above normal, and the same proportion below normal — a net balance between the two of zero per cent.

However, flat orders mark a recovery in manufacturing, the survey suggests, after negative net balances of minus 9 per cent in the previous two monthly surveys, and bigger negative figures before that. Overall, the latest figure is the most positive recorded by the CBI since August last year.

However, export orders remain weak, with a net -5 per cent of firms reporting orders to be

below normal. Although this is a slight improvement on the previous figures of -7 and -11 per cent, CBI leaders are sceptical about the total, since the recent strengthening of sterling is likely to worsen the position of exporters.

Price expectations are continuing to increase as manufacturing recovery improves, sending some warning signals about inflation. Manufacturers expect domestic prices to rise over the next four months, with a net balance of 8 per cent of firms suggesting that average prices will rise.

Firms' expectations on prices have risen since September after a downward trend in the first

half of this year, but CBI economists suggest that seasonal factors may be coming into play.

A net 21 per cent of firms forecast increased output, confirming a more positive trend in expectations since mid-year.

The CBI yesterday set out ideas aimed at ensuring that London is Europe's "most successful city" by 2020, including increasing manufacturing's contribution to the capital's economy from 13 per cent to 20 per cent. Anthony Fuller, CBI London region chairman, said: "This new report sets the aim of making London the global centre of wealth creation."

### Ibstock replaces Hopkins

I STOCK, the brick manufacturer that last week replaced its chief executive, yesterday removed Anthony Hopkins after two months as head of Ibstock Building Products. Philip Mengel, who has taken over from Ian Macellan as Ibstock's chief executive, will now assume Mr Hopkins's responsibilities.

An Ibstock spokesman said that Mr Hopkins "felt his position was untenable". Mr Mengel, 52, described the reason for Mr Hopkins' departure as "just a policy difference over the role of the chief executive... there was a demarcation dispute". They are understood to have disagreed over who should oversee the Redland-Tarmac integration, which will involve restructuring and redundancies.

**FirstBus home**  
FirstBus has been selected as the preferred bidder for the Great Eastern Railways passenger rail franchise, it was announced to the Stock Exchange last night. John O'Brien, the Franchising Director, is expected to make a formal announcement next month, followed by a handover of the service early in the new year. FirstBus beat bid from National Express. The service out of Liverpool Street Station is seen to have long-term stable prospects because 70 per cent of the passengers hold season tickets.

### TV agreement

United News & Media has emerged as the winner for Westcountry Television, the ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. It is believed to have agreed to buy Westcountry for about £80 million from the owners, the Daily Mail & General Trust, Brittany Ferries and Southwest Water, in a deal that will give it near blanket coverage of the ITV1 market in the far South West.

## Storehouse rings up a surprise at halfway

By CLARE STEWART



Keith Edelman, chief executive, was in a festive mood after a successful first half

sales and will be introduced to all new Bhs stores.

Total franchise sales in the first half rose by 38 per cent to £47 million, accounting for 8 per cent of group turnover.

All divisions improved sales, with menswear and home products leading the way. The group has continued trials of its "millennium design" which it says has lifted

and by the year end the total number of shops is expected to reach 300. Four more Bhs stores are due to open in the second half together with four Mothercare outlets and two Mothercare World sites.

Capital expenditure for the year is estimated at £110 million. UK gross margins in-

creased in both Bhs and Mothercare. Across the group margins slipped, reflecting the impact of lower-margin sales at Childrens World and sales to franchise outlets at wholesale prices.

Analysts are forecasting full year profits of £126 million, and a dividend of 8.5p.

An interim dividend of 4.6p is payable on January 28.

### Price deal by Energy to ensure stability

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear generator, has struck a deal with Southern Electric for energy supplies stretching over 15 years. The move will ensure price stability for more than 15 per cent of its output, and is designed primarily to shield the generator from fluctuating electricity prices.

Announcing a drop in pre-tax losses for the half year yesterday, British Energy gave warning that the price of electricity was likely to fall. As British Energy operates in an area of power production that is unable to set prices, it is vulnerable to price fluctuation. It can protect itself by hedging contracts but such devices prevented the company from enjoying the benefits of the unexpectedly high trading price of electricity in recent months.

British Energy faces further uncertainty if there is a change of government, with Labour saying the privileged status of nuclear in the electricity industry — that it is the last form of generation to be called off the system — could be reviewed. But Bob Hawley, chief executive, dismissed it as technically unworkable.

In the past six months the company suffered a £26 million cost in lost revenue and repairs from problems with the two reactors shut down amid a storm of controversy days before privatisation of the company, and hours after individual investors had submitted their applications.

British Energy said it

### London 'will remain major finance centre'

LONDON will retain its position as one of the three major global financial centres, regardless of whether Britain joins the European Monetary Union (EMU), according to a senior Bank of England director. John Townend, deputy director of the Bank, told a City & Financial conference in London yesterday: "London's particular strengths, which have proved attractive over the years, remain in place quite unaffected by EMU — the English language, the convenient time zone, availability in abundance of relevant trading and banking skills, the unbureaucratic regulatory framework, the technological infrastructure, and the critical mass of so diverse a range of markets and financial and ancillary services available in one place."

Mr Townend's speech on London's position in the global trading cycle regardless of the EMU follows one earlier this week by Ian Penderleith, fellow director of the Bank of England, on the same subject.

### Merry Glenmorangie

GOEFFREY MADDRELL, chairman of Glenmorangie, yesterday predicted the whisky company would enjoy a happy Christmas and said that there were signs of improved price stability in the drinks market. Mr Maddrell's positive comments helped Glenmorangie 'A' shares to rise 5.5p to a closing all-time high of 81.5p. There was a 7 per cent increase in half year pre-tax profits to £4.3 million. Overall turnover rose 26 per cent to £23 million. The 'A' share and 'B' share interim dividends were increased by 10 per cent to 3.025p and 1.513p respectively, payable on January 15, 1997.

### NSM warns of loss

SHARES of NSM plunged from 42.5p to a five-year low of 23p yesterday, as the mining company gave warning that interest on its spiralling debt would force it to return a half-way loss. The company, profitable for the last three years, is to sell its US operations to combat the £95 million debt but expects to receive substantially less than asset value. John Jermine, chairman, said trading should pick up substantially next year. After the US disposals NSM will be left with its principal deep mine in South Wales and another 12 opencast mines.

### DBS profit soars 109%

DBS MANAGEMENT, the financial and business services group based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, has announced half-year pre-tax profits up 109 per cent, to £2.7 million, with turnover up 59 per cent, to £53.8 million. The interim dividend has been increased 71 per cent, to 6p per share, while earnings per share have jumped 74 per cent to 22.5p. DBS shares, which are quoted on AIM, rose 40p to 495p in response to the news. Martin Greenwood, chief executive, said that the company hoped to be able to seek a full stock market quotation before the end of its financial year on March 31.

### Royal plea for help

THE PRINCE OF WALES yesterday urged the business community to give its backing to the new Gifts in Kind charity and "make a big difference to people's lives". The new venture will act as a clearing house through which donations in kind, rather than in cash, can be matched to the most suitable charity. The charity has already received £177,000 from the National Lottery and has signed up the support of Lloyds TSB Group, which provides office space for the charity; Dixons Stores; TNT, the transport group; Hewlett-Packard; and IBM.

### Macdonald Hotels up

MACDONALD HOTELS said yesterday that it was looking forward with confidence as the company unveiled a two-thirds increase in half-year profits before tax to £4.6 million. The company added five hotels during the first part of the year, increasing its rooms to 1,420 in 22 hotels. Overall turnover increased 25 per cent to £19.2 million. The hotel division increased profits, excluding exceptional, 15 per cent to £4.5 million. A maiden interim dividend of 1.5p is payable on January 9.

### Car Group worth £43m

THE CAR GROUP, bought by its management for £25 million in March, will be valued at £43 million when it joins the stock exchange next Thursday. The company has raised £14.5 million from the flotation, which it will use to buy out its original backers. The flotation will make Martin Doherty, its managing director, a paper millionaire by valuing his stake at £2.6 million. Richard Farr, chairman, and Peter King, chief executive, will also share a stake worth £4.95 million. Charterhouse Tilney is placing 15 million shares at 13p each.

### Lowndes Lambert slips

LOWNDES LAMBERT GROUP, the international insurance broker, said worldwide rates had continued to fall or remain flat as it unveiled a £1 million fall in interim pre-tax profits to £5 million. Although markets in the UK, United States, Europe and other overseas divisions had been tough, the group was maintaining its interim at 2.9. Group turnover was up 11 per cent to £40.4 million (£36.4 million) and the interim results included the cost of restructuring, some job losses, the introduction of new technology and acquisitions.

### Robert Wiseman ahead

ROBERT WISEMAN DAIRIES yesterday said that it is under tough pricing pressure from its supermarket customers as it reported a rise in first-half pre-tax profits from £4.6 million to £5.1 million. The company has increased the interim dividend from 1p to 1.15p out of earnings up from 4.47p to 5.47p. Alan Wiseman, the chairman, said: "We have experienced increased margin pressure in the second half, in particular, as a result of weak bulk cream prices and the ever competitive multiple retailer sector."

### Cracking Christmas offer from Cellphones Direct.

**NOKIA**  
NEW GSM MODEL 1610.  
ITS A GIFT  
£9.99  
INC. VAT  
PLUS FREE IN-CAR  
ADAPTOR AND LEATHER CASE  
TOGETHER WORTH £25 INC. VAT

FREE CALLS FOR 3 MONTHS.  
50 mins per month for 3 months worth up to £52.50 inc. VAT

FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 2 MONTHS.  
£0.50 per month inc. VAT

FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP.  
Save money on shopping, leisure and pleasure for 2 years with the Cellphones Direct Advantage Card

FREE £10 CHRISTMAS BONUS VOUCHER.  
Once your phone is connected £10 inc. VAT will be credited to your Cellphones Direct Account



Cellphones

## Morgan unit trusts to be run from Germany

By ROBERT MILLER AND CAROLINE MERRELL

DEUTSCHE BANK, the German owner of Morgan Grenfell, delivered a humiliating blow to its London unit trust arm yesterday when it announced that it was transferring the supervisory role of the UK unit trust company to Frankfurt.

On September 1 Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealings in three of its European unit trusts after alleged irregularities were uncovered by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers.

Peter Young, manager of two of the funds, was suspended from his duties at Morgan Grenfell and subsequently sacked. He is now the subject of an investigation

by the Serious Fraud Office.

Deutsche Bank was forced to inject about £180 million into the three trusts before trading in units resumed. Last month, seven senior Morgan Grenfell executives, including Keith Percy, the chief executive, left the company.

The German bank had already hinted that it would shift the supervisory role of the unit trusts, but not the cash or day-to-day management, to head office.

Morgan Grenfell in London and Imro its regulator had no

advance warning of yesterday's announcement, however, and both expressed surprise, and in the case of the watchdog "considerable concern".

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□ Questions for Rothschild from the PAC □ Tokyo lets Hanwa sink □ Customer protest unlikely to shake society

□ ON a Richter Scale of government mishandling of public assets, the findings of the Public Accounts Committee into the sale last year of British Coal probably rate about a three — a minor tremor, a few shaken reputations but no structural damage.

The main concern relates to NM Rothschild, the bank that cornered the market in privatisation work on behalf of the Government. A side issue was the involvement of Richard Budge, the eventual buyer of large chunks of British Coal, in an inquiry into the financial affairs of his brother, which was not notified to those selling the coal industry. As Mr Budge was cleared of any wrongdoing, this is more a failure of communication between officials than anything more sinister.

As to Rothschilds, the valuations the bank provided for Britain's coal industry proved hopelessly short of the mark. The bank was first appointed to look at coal in 1991. At the time Lord Wakeham was Secretary of State for Energy, and paved the way for the sell-off of the coal industry, not least through overseeing the earlier privatisation of the electricity industry.

Lord Wakeham trudged off to the House of Lords in 1992, the rules are at present. Lord

leaving the Government entirely in July 1994. Just six months later he popped up as non-executive director at Rothschilds, a part-time job that delivers pocket money of £50,000. His appointment led to calls for rules to stem the flow of ex-ministers into jobs with companies that helped private.

The bank was criticised by the committee for the value it put on Britain's coalmines, some of which went on to deliver wonderfully high profits for Mr Budge and the £25 million success bonus paid based on some criteria which Rothschilds had already achieved — easily money, in other words.

British Coal, like virtually

every other privatisation, was sold off too cheaply. The trouble with valuations like the one provided by Rothschilds is that they tend to set a guide price on assets, rather than making the buyer do the work. The cosy links between Government and City are unavoidable, as the rules are at present. Lord

Wakeham would hardly have gone to such a prestigious bank had he been in charge of the arts or tourism. He was allowed to go, and they wanted him there.

Lucky Richard Budge. We have all wondered at the unexpected success of RJB, and now we need wonder no more. He was sold the business too cheap. Again, no blame attaches to him. The real blame attaches to those unnamed officials at the Department of Trade and Industry who allowed themselves to be legged over by the City. Again.

### Japan breaks the bank

□ THERE is an old joke on Japan's monolithic politics that has the American occupying forces explaining that a mature liberal democracy is two-sided, with a government and an opposition. The Japanese, go away and create just such a system — and so it remains for decades, the same government

### PENNINGTON



and the same opposition. The financial world in Japan, also drawn up by the Americans along American lines was similarly ossified — hence the need for a Japanese Big Bang to prevent further loss of market share to other, less-regulated Asian exchanges, such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Less regulation means more risk, and this requires the odd business to founder. The decision to cut loose a small regional bank in Osaka, rather than rallying round other banks to provide buoyancy until the business floated back to the surface of its own accord, is a further move in

the direction of bringing Japanese financial services into line with the rest of the world.

If the Ministry of Finance goes through with its stated intention to allow Hanwa Bank of Osaka to go under, this should strengthen most of the remaining players in Japan's financial system and boost the credibility of the authorities. Only most, though: some analysts are convinced that the new policy will mean a third of Japanese financial institutions will cease to exist in their current form.

Under plans put in place in the spring, all deposits at financial institutions will be protected for a period of five years, until 2001 when the Big Bang is due to hit, during which time the aim is to encourage the principle of self-responsibility and expand the disclosure of information.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was in Japan 11 months ago, oddly enough. He told banks there that a stainless steel safety net designed to save all who suffer would merely

encourage higher and higher-risk strategies by institutions that were guaranteed not to fail no matter how daft their actions, until the rescue costs became too high and the system collapsed. The Japanese have now been forced to heed his advice.

### All over at A&L bar withdrawals

□ MY brief note last week likening those customers of the Alliance & Leicester unhappy with the bonuses coming with conversion to ungrateful paupers squabbling over charity handouts has prompted a response from readers quite out of proportion to its length. The issue has aroused an unexpected degree of interest.

The rebel customers are threatening to withdraw £100 million in protest. As the society has assets of more than £23 billion, this is not going to make the pillars of this particular temple crumble. There is some

thing deeply unedifying about already wealthy people resorting to such tactics in return for a bob or two more. But let us try to look at the matter dispassionately.

A&L customers are indeed its ultimate owners, just as shareholders own the company. The parallel ends there. Each share, by law, carries the same rights: the more shares, the greater the control. The same does not apply to each pound invested in society accounts, any more than customers in a clearing bank have rights that increase along with their bank balances.

Second, the bonuses on conversion are not a "return" on an "investment" — this comes in the form of interest paid on those balances. They are designed to compensate members for the loss of mutual status. As this is indivisible, a sliding scale of compensation is only applicable when this system benefits the majority of members. This does not apply in the A&L's case: instead, because of the large number of small investors, an equal payout to all is the more utilitarian approach.

It seems clear that a sufficient majority of A&L customers have already voted in favour of the terms on offer. That would seem to settle the matter.

## Glaxo buys full control of Japanese joint venture

By ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME put itself in position yesterday to attack the Japanese pharmaceuticals market on its own by taking full control of its biggest Japanese joint venture for about £361 million.

The deal marks the end of more than four decades of collaboration with the Konishi family, which owned half of Nippon Glaxo, the joint venture. Glaxo had been trying to buy the Konishi stake for some time because of the family's apparent resistance to make significant investments in the business, analysts said.

Glaxo would not comment on its relationship with the Konishis, but said that owing 100 per cent of Nippon Glaxo



Sykes: ending collaboration

would provide it with a "platform for growth" in the world's second-largest pharmaceuticals market. Glaxo has been criticised for its inability to raise its market share in Japan beyond about 2 per cent, which is less than half of its global market share.

Nippon Glaxo has a broad range of research and development, manufacturing and distribution operations. Most of the older drugs in its portfolio, including Zantac, the ulcer treatment, are sold through the joint venture. But many new drugs, such as Imitran, a migraine medicine, have not been approved yet for Japanese use. Nippon Glaxo reported after-tax profits of £15.6 million

in the half year to June 30 and had net assets of £190 million.

Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo chief executive, wants to merge Nippon Glaxo with

Tempus, page 30

### Sears likely to seek buyer for Freemans

SPECULATION was growing yesterday that Sears, the troubled stores group run by Liam Strong, is looking to sell its Freemans catalogue business (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Continental catalogue companies such as Otto Versand of Germany and Pinault Printemps Redoute of France are thought to be the most likely bidders. Analysts say the company would probably fetch around £400 million. Otto Versand, a private company, owns the Gratzau catalogue business, while PPR owns Empire.

Other possible bidders for Freemans are thought to include N Brown, the small but very successful catalogue group, as well as Littlewoods and Burton.

### Morgan Crucible to float Emblem

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the specialist engineering group, yesterday confirmed that it is to spin-off its aerospace, sensors and instruments division in a float likely to value the business at £40 million.

The move to float the recently formed Emblem division reflects Morgan's strategy of focusing on its core materials technology activity.

Proceeds of the float will be used further to reduce Morgan's debt pile; the City believes that the company will soon launch a major acquisition drive to expand its industrial ceramics division.

Emblem operates two divisions, which have manufacturing facilities in the UK and the US. The aerospace division, representing 62 per cent

### Waddington jumps 36% at half time

STABILITY in paper and plastic markets stoked profits growth at Waddington, the printing and packaging group, as it returned pre-tax profits of £16.5 million, a 36 per cent gain in the six months to September 28 (Fraser Nelson writes).

As the group's £40 million capital expenditure programme got under way, sales grew 13 per cent to £156 million. Earnings jumped from 7.9p to 10.5p per share, and an interim dividend is 10 per cent higher, at 4.4p, due on January 17. The pharmaceutical packaging division returned operating profits of £5.1 million for the year to January 4 1997. The existing management will remain after the float.

Tempus, page 30

## BRITAIN'S INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS THE ECONOMY



Technology has always been at the heart of the aerospace industry, and the Airbus family of aircraft is no exception.

In just 25 years a wide range of sophisticated aircraft has been developed, each successive model involving the steady application of modern technology.

As a result, Europe's Airbus partnership, of which British Aerospace is an important member, has grown from nothing to being one of the world's two leading aircraft manufacturers, and has captured over a third of the entire market for large civil airliners. Over 2,000 Airbus aircraft have been sold to airlines around the globe.

This success story has created a whole industry. In Britain, the Airbus programmes actively support 25,000 jobs in over 300 companies, and contribute £1 billion a year to the trade balance. These high-value-added, wealth creating aircraft programmes account for more than 1.5 percent of Britain's total manufacturing sales abroad.

Britain is reaping the rewards from investing in research over the years. Through a close partnership between government and industry, continuing development of our expertise in technology will enable Airbus to build further on today's success, multiplying the handsome dividends the programmes are paying to the economy and to jobs in the UK.

## STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

## Investors show caution as Budget approaches

INVESTORS and traders have begun battering down the hatches as Tuesday's Budget speech by the Chancellor approaches.

Another strong performance by the pound, which soared to a four-year high against the dollar, and further gains on the bond market kept losses in the equity market to a minimum. The FTSE 100 index, down almost 16 points earlier in the session, finished 9 down at 3,953.80 in the face of further profit-taking on Wall Street after this week's record-breaking run by the Dow Jones industrial average.

Retail demand also showed signs of slowing down and this was reflected in turnover where the total number of shares traded reached just 746.5 million.

Among leaders, British Gas suffered a correction after its recent speculative run. The price dropped 65p to 222p with no sign of the bid from Shell. 10p lower at 98p, instead, investors are focusing again on costly supply contracts with producers and disagreements with the regulator. By the close, 17 million shares had changed hands.

Guinness floated to the top with a rise of 6p to 461p as Cazenove, the broker, urged clients to switch out of Grand Metropolitan, down 3p at 461p. Some bearish comments from Credit Suisse First Boston left Cable and Wireless 51p cheaper at 476p after figures on Wednesday. London International, the condominium maker, rose 3p to 158p a share on the back of a "buy" recommendation from HSBC James Capel, the broker. BZW also rates the shares a buy and says shareholders are unlikely to be disappointed with the group's performance. It expects pre-tax profits to grow 46 per cent to 95.5 million.

There were few surprises in maiden figures from British Energy, which was floated this year. The shares slipped 1p to 1341p. The group also confirmed it was linking up with Southern Electric, 2p lighter at 6901p, to obtain long-term supplies of electricity at a fixed price.

This served to focus the spotlight on the power generators, with National Power bouncing back after the lukewarm reception given to its figures on Wednesday. It finished the session 17p better at 452p after some further words of encouragement from Nat-



Sir Alistair Grant announced higher profits at Safeway

West Securities. But it still stands some way below the high for the year of 605p. PowerGen rose 10p to 588p.

A warning about a further erosion of margins left Safeway 1p easier at 3694p. It came as the group announced an increase in pre-tax profits from £213.7 million to £228.2 million. Brokers came back from a post-results

interim figures from ED&F Man fell short of last year, but with the group in an upbeat mood about the second half the price bounced 6p to 1624p.

Doubled pre-tax profits of £2.7 million at Aim-listed DBS Management lifted the price 40p to 495p, while a strong rise in profits was good for Quadrant, up 32p at 2551p. Lowndes Lambert, the

insurance broker, cheapened 1p to 1111p after a profits setback.

Brokers had to contend with several more profit warnings. NSM saw its share price almost halve with a fall of 19p to 23p after saying that it expected to make a trading loss at the halfway stage. The group is also in talks with its bankers about short-term working capital and its struc-

ture after the disposal of its US operations which are up for sale.

The business is likely to be sold at a discount to book value. Brokers say Ryan Mining in South Wales, which it bought earlier this year, had failed to reach the expected production levels.

But Stordata Solutions held steady at 35p after it said that profits this year would be hit by closure costs. Laserline, its vehicle security products arm, will not achieve the sort of profitability the market had been looking for.

Glenmorangie, the whisky distiller, is looking forward to a merry Christmas that should produce buoyant sales. There are also signs that prices in the industry are stabilising. In the first six months pre-tax profits grew 7 per cent to £4.3 million. The 'A' shares jumped 55p to 615p and the 'B' 5p to 102.5p.

Shares of Honeysett Group, the fashion group, returned from suspension 5p lower at 35p after reporting losses last year, a cut in the dividend and the appointment of Jeremy Hamer as chairman. Michael Jackson's Elderstreet Investments is set to buy a 33.3 per cent stake in the company. They eventually closed 12p cheaper at 271p.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company rose 4p to 3301p after announcing plans to haul its EuroLink ferry services from Sheerness to Vlissingen on December 1. Instead, rival Jacobs Holdings, 1p2 higher at 73p, will operate its Dart Line service from Dartford to Vlissingen for customers of EuroLink. Jacobs is currently bidding for Ropner, unchanged at 113p a share.

■ **NEW YORK:** Profit-taking was blamed as the Dow Jones industrial average fell 24.97 points in morning trading to stand at 6,405.10 at midday.

Bargain hunters came to the rescue of Thorn which has slumped to a low of 2931p since the demerger. Mercury Asset Management has picked up three million shares in the past few weeks, lifting its stake to 15.5 per cent. Almost four million shares were traded yesterday as the price closed 6p higher at 2991p.

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Better than expected half-year profits from Storehouse went down well with the City and pushed the shares up 35p at 275p. After a disappointing first quarter, things are picking up, with emphasis on Children's World, which it bought from Boots.

**NATIONAL POWER: GENERATING REMOVED SUPPORT**

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Bargain hunters came to the rescue of Thorn which has slumped to a low of 2931p since the demerger. Mercury Asset Management has picked up three million shares in the past few weeks, lifting its stake to 15.5 per cent. Almost four million shares were traded yesterday as the price closed 6p higher at 2991p.

meeding at the company in a bullish mood, with SBC Warburg and Merrill Lynch both said to be buyers.

Better than expected half-year profits from Storehouse went down well with the City and pushed the shares up 35p at 275p. After a disappointing first quarter, things are picking up, with emphasis on Children's World, which it bought from Boots.

**NATIONAL POWER: GENERATING REMOVED SUPPORT**

## MAJOR INDICES

## New York (midday)

Dow Jones 1,045.05 (+24.07)

S&amp;P Composite 1,174.16 (+1.59)

Tokyo Nikkei average 2,113.34 (+0.63)

Hong Kong Hang Seng 1,099.56 (+67.60)

Amsterdam EOE index 608.24 (+0.69)

Sydney ASX 292.5 (+0.2)

Frankfurt DAX 277.34 (+2.10)

Singapore Smais 2197.69 (+3.41)

Brussels General 1,032.79 (+27.64)

Paris CAC 40 223.57 (+0.18)

Zurich SWX Gen 817.80 (+0.49)

London FT 30 2775.0 (+0.49)

FT 100 3953.5 (+0.49)

FTSE Mid 250 4397.0 (+1.32)

FTSE 350 1,970.4 (+1.38)

FTSE Small 1,045.1 (+1.67)

FT All-Share 1,045.1 (+1.67)

FT Non Financials 2,034.5 (+3.69)

FT Fixed Interest 115.66 (+0.35)

FT Govt Secs 94.59 (+0.31)

FT Bonds 100.52 (+0.28)

FTSE 100 1,045.1 (+0.49)

FTSE 250 1,099.56 (+67.60)

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FT Non Financials 2,034.5 (+3.69)

FT Fixed Interest 115.66 (+0.35)

FT Govt Secs 94.59 (+0.31)

FT Bonds 100.52 (+0.28)

FTSE 100 1

## Setback for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>																				
41	39	Adnams	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
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41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42	40	Admiral	42	40	3.2	19.2	43	41	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2
41	39	Admiral	41	39	3.2	19.2	42													



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

THE TIMES UNION TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



Tony Sutton presents a two-page special report on the regeneration of a once great city that is fighting to regain its former glory

## Shipshape and back in fashion

Grants triggering more than £400 million worth of development in Bristol's city centre are expected to be announced today when Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, visits the area. English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration body, is to provide £35 million to fund the infrastructure for Bristol's key strategic sites — the former 66-acre Bristol Docks, now called Harbourside, and the 23-acre Temple Quay near Bristol's main railway station.

Schemes for these sites will transform the centre of Bristol.

At Harbourside, work on an £82 million science and leisure complex — featuring what is described as the UK's first electronic zoo — will start in the new year. Expectations are high that the £98 million Centre for the Performing Arts will succeed in its £75 million bid for funding from the National Arts Council. This will aim to be the premier arts facility for the West of England. The science and leisure elements, Wildscreen World and Science World, have just been granted £41 million of National Lottery money from the Millennium Commission.

The other site, Temple Quay, is planned to become Bristol's headquarter office sector, linking the railway station with Broadmead, the city's main shopping area.

These developments represent a turnaround in Bristol's fortunes. For years there have been schemes for the regeneration of the historic harbour area. Until now, all have faltered. It has taken a huge change in attitudes by the public and private sectors, an improving economy and public funding to get the city moving again. Both sectors now realise they need each other and have built close working relationships through partnerships and companies.

Big companies such as Sun Life have relocated to north Bristol close to the M4-M5 corridor. John Lewis, Bristol's largest department store, is leaving Broadmead, the main shopping area, to set up in a



Heseltine: announcement today

750,000 sq ft out-of-town regional shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway on the M5. This will be a mini-Meadowhall complete with leisure facilities and is expected to open in the spring of 1998.

In recent years there has also been a rapid growth of business parks in north Bristol and they have begun to challenge the city for new development.

The Ministry of Defence opened its Procurement Executive office complex in north Bristol this summer. At 1.2 million sq ft, it was the biggest office scheme in Britain and it has had a big impact on the area, attracting defence-related companies and boosting the local housing market. The nearby Bradley Stoke housing estate is no longer "sadly broke" as a BBC documentary programme described it.

House prices are increasing by about 1 per cent a month.

In the west, the opening last June of the £350 million Second Severn Crossing is having a profound effect on both sides of the river. On the Bristol side, a 2,000-acre tract of land is being developed by ICI and KTC and marketed as Severnside. It is in this area that Bristol has

scored one of its greatest successes, the privatisation of the present Bristol Docks at Portbury. The port now boasts that it is the UK's second-biggest car-handler and has gained more than £100 million investment since it passed into private hands.

Today's investment announcements in the city centre will do much to redress the imbalance that was developing between the two areas, city centre and out of town.

City council attempts to keep companies such as Bristol & West Building Society and BT in the centre appear to have succeeded. Bristol & West is now a racing certainty to move to Temple Quay, and there is a good possibility that it will be joined by BT. In total, they require about 400,000 sq ft — more than the average annual take-up of office space in the city.

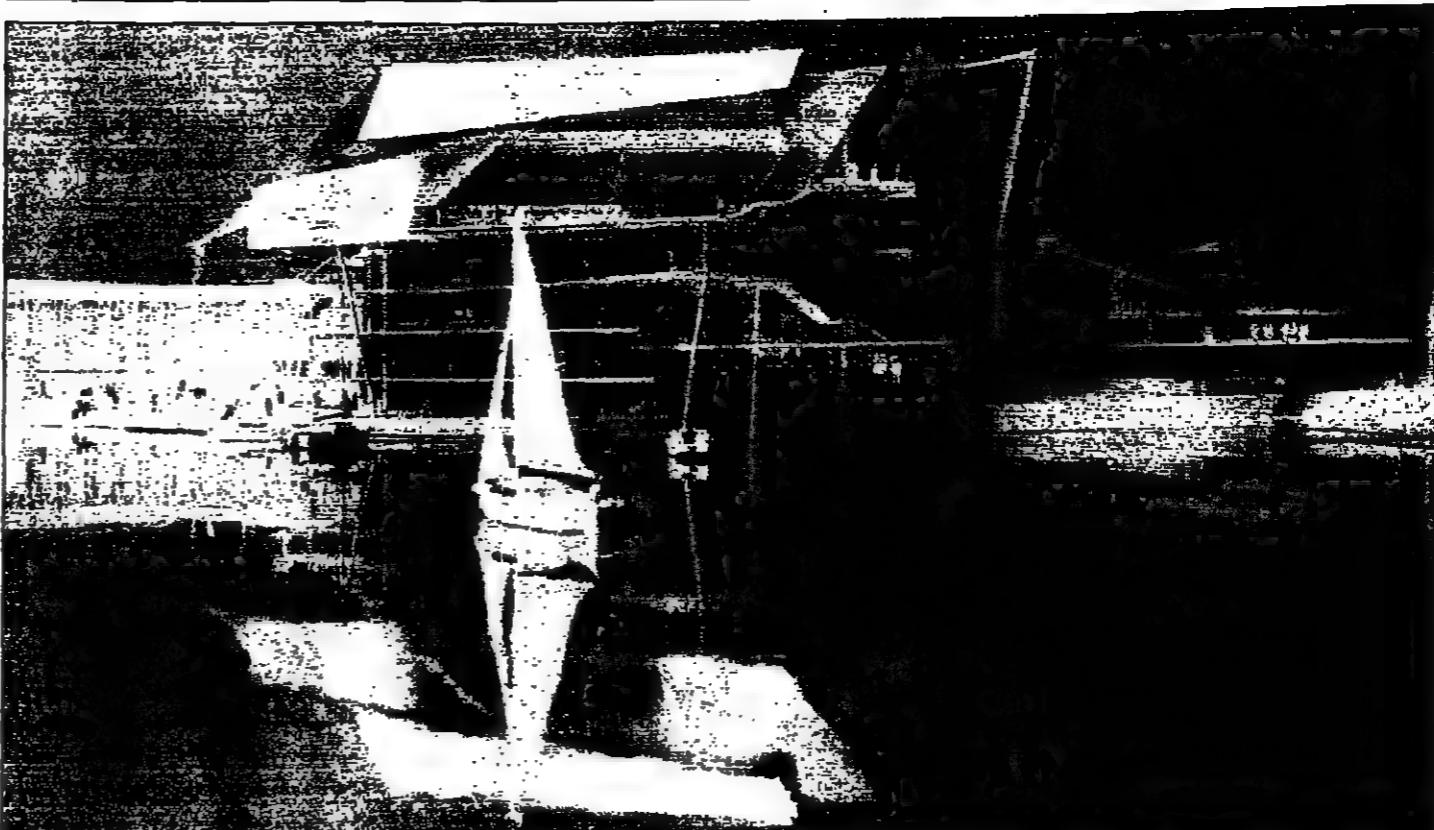
There is also progress in tackling traffic problems. Companies are being asked to submit plans for a rapid transit system that could cost up to £400 million.

The management of the town centre is being handled by the Broadmead Board, set up by the public and private sectors. John Lewis's Broadmead premises are being taken over by Bentalls, which will undertake a £10 million refurbishment programme before it opens in autumn 1998.

The initial success of the Broadmead Board has caught the interest of Newcastle, Coventry, and Swansea.

Paul Smith, the chairman of the council's city committee and joint chairman of the Broadmead Board, says: "Companies we thought were going to leave the city are now deciding to stay and that is obviously anchoring a large number of jobs within the city. I think we are beginning to win the battle against out-of-town development — residential, commercial and retail."

"For the first time in about 30 years, the population of the city has increased. And this has mainly in the central area."



A model of the Centre for the Performing Arts proposed for Canons Marsh in the Harbourside area. Arts Council funding is being sought

## How they all pulled together

**B**ristol has become a "model city for regeneration". Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, announced when he opened the MoD's massive £254 million defence procurement headquarters in north Bristol earlier this year. It was music to the ears of many Labour councillors present, who could remember bitter battles with the Thatcher Government over the issue.

Mr Portillo acknowledged that there had been a remarkable change. One of the reasons Bristol failed to win any City Challenge money five years ago was because the Government could not believe the public and private sectors were really working together, he said.

That failed challenge had depressed many in both camps. They were seeing other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff forge ahead. Bristol, with its long seafaring history and its status for much of the past millennium as the realm's second city, faced an

### After years of decline, public and private sectors united

uncertain future. Its position had sunk to eighth and its image tarnished as the Government set about imposing an urban development corporation on a most reluctant local authority.

The city council fought it all the way to the House of Lords but without success. But it means that the corporation received little support for much of its existence.

"Bristol unfortunately had a reputation for being preoccupied with politics and it suffered," Nicholas Hood, chairman of Wessex Water, says. "The city and the area receded in the Seventies and Eighties. When I was a boy the tobacco industry employed 40,000 people in Bristol. Today I think it is



Portillo: remarkable change

just 300. The drinks industry and, of course, defence, has also declined."

Louis Sherwood, chairman of HTV, recalls "about a dozen leading businessmen getting together in 1989 to create the Initiative. In a sense both public and private

sectors came towards each other and there was a realisation that unless we all started working together and pulling in the same direction things were not going to happen in Bristol."

St John Hartnell, senior partner of commercial agent Hartnell Taylor Cook, says: "The Initiative was eventually about 70-strong and had every chairman of every mover and shaker in Bristol as a member."

It was merged with the Chamber of Commerce in 1993 to form a rather unique animal, the Chamber of Commerce and Initiative.

Ken Johnson, project director of English Partnerships, says: "Bristol is going to have more to shout about than it has had for a long time. There is now a tremendous opportunity for the city to become very upbeat."

There are now 16 partnership schemes. Joint activities range from housing for the poor to developing £200 million projects such as Harbourside.



Temple Quay: it is to become Bristol's top office sector, linking the railway station and main shopping area

## developing partnerships in the South West



English Partnerships is a major player in the UK Government's regeneration and inward investment strategies. To date, with our public and private sector partners, we have secured over £2 billion of investment into England creating and safeguarding more than

37,000 jobs.

Through our Investment Fund, we create customised development support and funding packages which complement over UK and European financial assistance in urban and rural areas. We own and manage a large portfolio of industrial and commercial premises throughout the South West region, plus a wide range of fully serviced development sites supported by our own on-site management service. Many exciting opportunities exist for new development in the South West and we look forward to creating new regional partnerships. For information on English Partnerships, contact our Corporate Marketing Team.

01942 296900  
Fax: 01942 296927



ENGLISH  
PARTNERSHIPS

## Marketing skills to bring real work to the jobless

The region offers investors a thriving business centre with good road, rail, air and shipping links

**B**ristol has an important strategic role to play in the economic development and regeneration of the area around it. As a major manufacturing base, the city is of great importance in helping to attract new investment.

The Western Development Partnership (WDP) is carrying out work to help local businesses to thrive. The organisation was formed in 1993 by local public and private-sector partners in what used to be known as the county of Avon, which was replaced this year by four unitary authorities for Bristol, Bath, the Somerset resort of Weston-super-Mare and south Gloucestershire in the area where the M4 meets the M5. It promotes the sub-region as "Bristol, Bath, West of England".

It is backed by the area's local authorities, the business community and a range of other agencies committed to economic development. Operating as a limited company it plans to develop the area as one of the most prosperous and technically advanced in Europe through a strategy of diversifying the economy.

Bristol is a thriving financial services, manufacturing and retail centre with excellent motorway, rail, air and shipping links. Like other areas in the region, however, it also has inner-city deprivation and pockets of high unemployment and long-term joblessness.

WDP is harnessing the

skills of local authorities, the business community, training and employment agencies and academics to develop a blueprint for a strategy for regeneration.

Martin Willey, the chief executive, says: "The WDP has got all the organisations involved in economic development and regeneration to pull in one direction. As regards inward investment, we are beginning to secure a substantial increase in company relocation."

There has been a complete turnaround in co-operation. It has been a great achievement.

regeneration at Westec, says the area's economy is now supported by a powerful network of partnership organisations.

Compared with five years ago, there has been a complete turnaround in terms of co-operation in the area. It has been a great achievement. He believes one of the notable advances has been in "people development" and points out that about 25 per cent of the area's employees now work for companies that have achieved or are working towards the Investors in People standard.

About 6,000 people, either long-term unemployed or aged 16 to 24, are undergoing training. A further 900 people have benefited from Modern Apprenticeships since the scheme started in 1994.

**T**he Western Development Partnership is one of five economic development agencies operating in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. Its efforts are backed by the West of England Development Agency (WEDA), the Government-funded inward investment organisation for the region.

The idea is that the various county-based bodies and WEDA co-operate and "hustle as a pack" to establish a marketable identity for the region in order to attract inward investors.

CRAIG SETON

## Voyage that will put Bristol back on map

Twenty-seven million people watched the programme on BBC television and 17 million on ITV, so it must have been a World Cup final or a royal tell-all documentary. But no, the event that attracted so many viewers was the Festival of the Sea celebration in Bristol earlier this year.

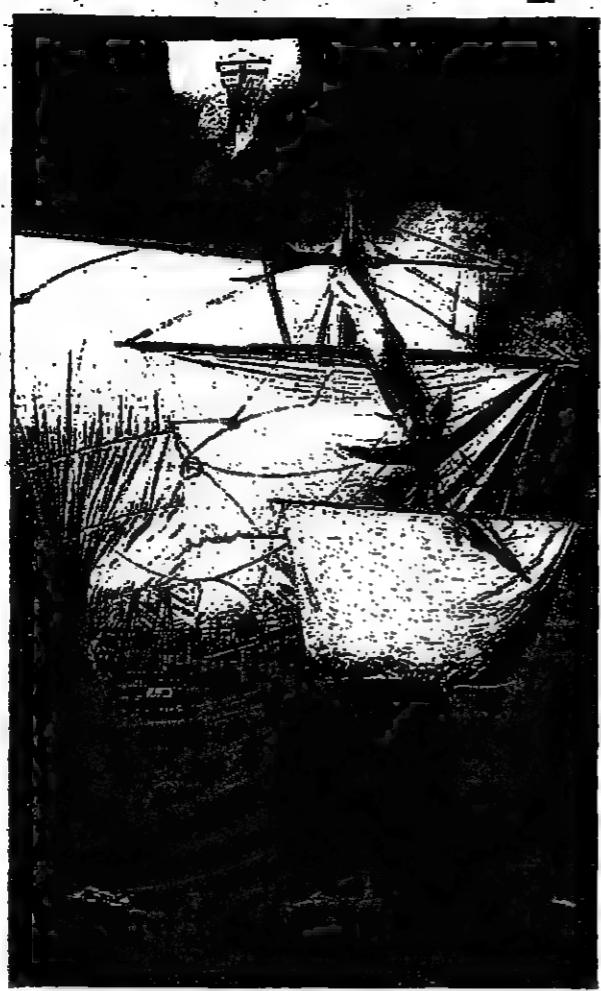
No one was more surprised than the sponsors who had thought up the event almost as a backdrop for the launch of a replica of John Cabot's ship, *Matthew*, which set out from Bristol in 1497. The "real" event is next year when the *Matthew*, after a royal send-off, retraces Cabot's epic voyage across the Atlantic in which the explorer landed in North America and called it "New Foundland".

*Matthew's* promoters — Bristol's public and private sectors — hope not only that the voyage will help to put Bristol back on the world map but will also "destroy the Columbus myth". Columbus never set foot on North America. Cabot was the real hero," says St John Hartnell, chairman of the Cabot committee that has realised this scheme, and senior partner of commercial property agents Hartnell, Taylor, Cook. The voyage is also a reminder of Bristol's illustrious past. For centuries it was the second city in the land and the kingdom's most important port.

The *Matthew* project was born at an important time — when the city seemed to be losing out to other places in importance and even its own inhabitants were losing faith. There were riots, and a growing exodus of companies from Bristol.

"The whole of Bristol is behind *Matthew*," says Mr Hartnell. "Everyone refers to it as our ship. Many people would argue that the ship itself has been the cause of the get-together in Bristol — the first outward sign that the city and private enterprise could really work together."

When *Matthew* sets sail on May 2, exactly 500 years after John Cabot, it may be accompanied by a flotilla of small and tall ships. Cana-



Setting sail: the replica of John Cabot's *Matthew*

da's new destroyer, *HMS St John*, will escort the ship across the Atlantic.

By the time the journey starts everyone should know about it. In Bristol there will be two balls, one at the start of the journey along the Avon and one at the end.

Along the river there will be a mile-long, two-day fair culminating in a fireworks display at Fortbury.

For those not able to witness this event in person there is to be television coverage. The BBC is to broadcast six half-hour, prime-time programmes during the ship's voyage across the Atlantic. There will be simultaneous broadcasts throughout the United States and Canada.

When *Matthew* arrives in North America, the festivities will restart. The ship will

be greeted by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, and Brian Tobin, the Premier of Newfoundland.

Several events are planned as *Matthew* circumnavigates Newfoundland, travels up the St Lawrence river to Boston, Massachusetts, and then on to Newport, Rhode Island, and New York. Everyone should have heard of Bristol by journey's end. *Matthew's* promoters describe it as "one of the highest profile events of 1997".

The scheme, which has cost £1.75 million, has been underwritten by festival chairman Michael Slade, who runs property developer Helical Bar. He is not expected to be out of pocket.

TONY SUTTON

A site, unwanted for a decade, is to become the biggest area for renewal, says Tony Sutton

When Michael Heseltine visits Temple Quay today he will come to applaud success. But 12 months ago the 23-acre site in Bristol city centre seemed almost impossible to develop. Many national developers had come and departed empty-handed.

Now Bristol & West Building Society should announce that it will be building the biggest headquarter offices the city centre has seen in recent times.

Assuming the best laid plans do not go awry, Bristol & West will be buying the 2.6-acre waterfront site opposite NatWest Life's headquarters and putting up 270,000 sq ft of buildings, to be built in phases. The first phase of 150,000 sq ft will start next year.

At the same time property developer Castlemore will be signing up to produce a speculative office scheme of nearly 45,000 sq ft and a mixed-use leisure/retail facility of 70,000 sq ft.

All these developments are in the core part of a 23-acre site stretching from Brunel's much-admired Temple Meads railway station to the Floating Harbour. This area is destined to become Bristol's new office quarter. There is planning consent for up to one million sq ft of offices, but the final density is likely to be less, perhaps 750,000 sq ft. It will be supported by shops, restaurants and other services.

Ken Johnson, projects director for English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration body, says: "What we are creating here is the best office site in Bristol."

The agency is investing £15 million in the site with the creation of new roads, squares and public open spaces. Investment from the private sector is expected to be in excess of £200 million.

The city council is keen to have a large arena for staging events which would serve the region and be ideally located next to Bristol's main railway station. The agency is examining how it could be funded as it



Cheers: Bristol entrepreneurs Michael Slade, left, and St John Hartnell drink a toast on Harbourside to the city's future

## £215 million plan for city's new business heart

would require a public subsidy.

This is the first major site that English Partnerships has taken over

### • New road links to be built •

the end of Partnerships has



Ken Johnson: "It'll be the best office site in Bristol"

agency's hands. In effect the agency is taking over unfinished business of the corporations which in some cases will be rescue missions, ranging from half-completed schemes to projects which are still in the pipeline.

Despite six years of intensive marketing, the corporation had failed to secure any regeneration of its key site. In ten years the site has gone through three name changes — Temple Meads, Quay Point and now Temple Quay. So what English Partnerships has achieved in just under 12

months is remarkable. It has been helped by a dramatic change in the political climate, a rapidly improving economy — and by putting more public money into the site.

"The approach we are taking is very proactive," says Mr Johnson. "We are in direct control, using the appropriate development agencies such as Castlemore and Bristol & West to procure individual buildings. I think it looks as if this approach is going to pay dividends."

English Partnerships in Bristol has also forged a close working relationship with the city council. "Although the city is not a landowner at Temple Quay, we are working with them very closely in terms of developing the masterplan and going through the planning process. This means there is a general involvement in an important part of the city," Mr Johnson says.

"It is a good relationship. It works well given the difficulties that existed between the city and the development corporation."

### • Project to boost retail and leisure •

part of the city," Mr Johnson says.

It is a good relationship. It

works well given the difficulties that existed between the

city and the development cor-

poration."

## LOOK west

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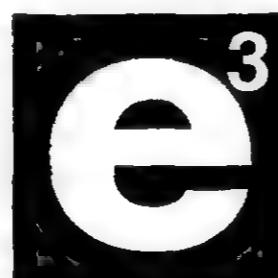
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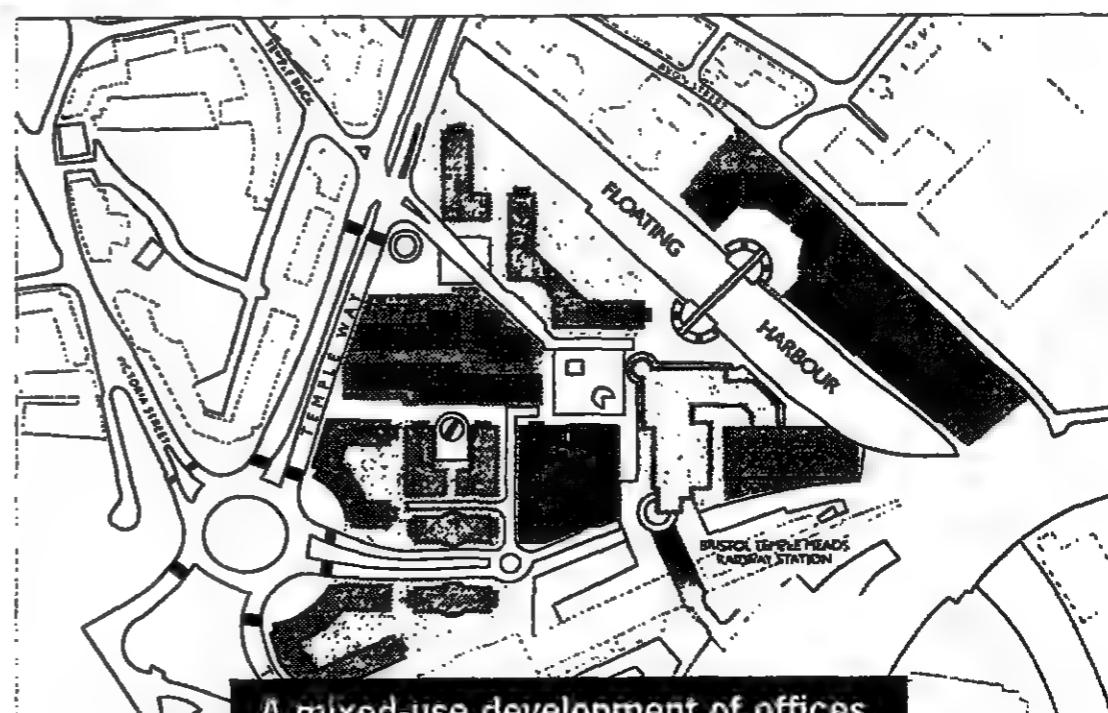
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## EDUCATION

What you should ask when your child is ready for A levels and, right, the students who won the best grades

## How to choose the right sixth-form place

Anne Lee offers expert advice on making the all-important decision

Some senior schools do not have a sixth form so choice is forced on its pupils, and some students want to take the opportunity to consider removing the straitjacket of the schooling they have so far received. The choice is between moving on to a specialist sixth-form college, or changing to an independent or state school.

The autumn term is the time when schools hold their sixth-form days. How do you cut through the persuasive presentations to assess the real value of what is offered? The first place to which many ambitious parents turn is the league table. Though actual results can be a guide to strength and weakness, league table positions may mask outstanding achievements in one school, and overstate success in another. Dig deeper. Assessing teaching quality at a school you know is easier than establishing the quality of teaching elsewhere. A series of excellent A-level results can conceal key weaknesses. I came into contact with one apparently outstanding school where many pupils studied economics and relatively few took maths. The pupils later told me that the mathematics teacher had halitosis.

The numbers of pupils opting to study a subject can be as significant as the grades achieved. You may not expect large numbers to study Latin in an academic school, but you would expect maths, English, European languages, history, geography and the sciences to have reasonably strong support.

Parents should look closely at the range of subjects offered, and match it to their child's strengths.

Some 16-year-olds will thrive on a diet of media studies, history of art and photography, others will not be sufficiently challenged. They may need the more traditional 'hard' A-level subjects for possible entry to university courses.

If your child has learning difficulties, sympathetic teaching and a policy that allows extra time for internal and external examinations can be essential.

Boarding schools clearly have more time to offer extracurricular opportunities, but parents need again to look behind the rhetoric.

How often do all the clubs and societies actually meet, how many members do they have? What happens at weekends: does the school empty because they are weekly boarders, or are good staff also on duty then? When is the art room or the computer room open and supervised? Teenagers do not want to be organised all the time, but they should be encouraged to take opportunities, otherwise the wine bar or pub may become the only focal point.

Some sixth-form colleges offer specialist courses. Ben Elton claimed that his education was saved because his parents noticed his obsession with drama and sent him to a sixth-form college to study just that.

Sixth-form colleges can be a relief for some pupils because they offer the chance of a fresh start and to study subjects not offered within the normal curriculum. For some, however, they can be hell because they are often large and anonymous. A dislocated youngster can more easily get academically or socially lost in his type of environment.

You should certainly find out whether the school you choose can give good careers advice. Some pupils believe they have been marking time until they can go and

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You should certainly find out whether the school you choose can give good careers advice. Some pupils believe they have been marking time until they can go and

work, so can the sixth form ensure that they have marketable skills, and perhaps raise their occupational horizons?

Disciplinary expectations in sixth forms vary enormously. Sixteen-year-olds need to learn to manage their own freedom — but with safety nets. A good sixth form will have a few rules and methods of monitoring behaviour, but those rules should be clearly communicated and enforced.

Sometimes, pupils at single-sex schools want to move to what they may describe as a 'more normal' environment. Coeducation, if the hormones are raging, may be the better option for these teenagers.

The teaching in girls' schools tends to be much more prescribed and organised than in some coedu-

cational or boys' schools. One girl described her move from a girls' grammar to an independent co-educational sixth-form as a real test of motivation, akin to going to university. She loved the increased social life, the better facilities and the boarding school ethos but horrified her parents when she casually said: 'Of course, I will not get the A-level grades I would have got had I stayed at my old school.'

So changing school or staying on is the dilemma. If you let your teenager do the analysis, then check together that all the important points have been covered; the sixth-form years can be an exhilarating but safe step towards adult independence.

• The author, a former headmistress, is an education and business adviser and a governor of Queenwood School.

Revealed: secret wish of the century's greatest scientist

## Einstein's theory of selling yourself

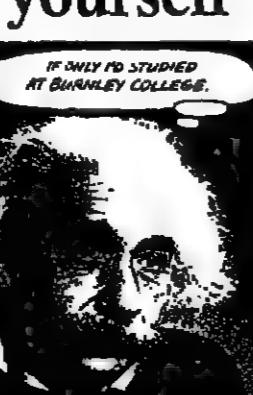
Albert Einstein wishes he had gone to college in Burnley, David Charter writes. The century's most celebrated scientist helps to promote the Lancashire college in advertisements showing a thought balloon that reveals his inner desire to study there.

Burnley's Einstein campaign, now in its third year, broke new ground in the way colleges used quirky advertising in an eye-catching way to win enrolments.

Tom Lemmon, its marketing manager, said: 'For the first year we tried the campaign, colleagues inside the college were very unsure. But it seemed to get a big response outside because it was humorous. This year our research showed that the recognition factor was high, and the staff in the college are solidly behind it.'

Burnley's lead was followed locally by other colleges using famous faces to sell themselves. Advertising agencies say that colleges are the fastest growth market in education as they vie for students against each other and ambitious sixth forms. Colleges spend as much as £100,000 a year in the battle to attract students, but some of the more aggressive marketing has fallen foul of the Advertising Standards Authority.

In the summer, the Advertising Standards Authority ordered Clarendon College in Nottingham to stop saying it was 'the best general further education college in England'. A competitor, the Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies, claimed that it was the best college in the country. But Clarendon stubbornly refused to withdraw its promotional material. The dispute centred on grades awarded by funding council inspectors for various aspects of college provision, such as student guidance, gov-



Burnley's advertisement

ernance and management, accommodation and staffing.

Birmingham was awarded

four grade Is and four grade 2s, while Clarendon received 11 grade Is, 2s and 2s. They both averaged 1.5 for curriculum subjects.

Eddie McIntyre, the Birmingham Principal, says: 'The governors, students and staff of the college had worked very hard to achieve the inspection result that showed that we are clearly, by any measure, the best college in the country, and we did not want that hard work undermined by a usurper.'

Clarendon argued that the claim was made in only one of its leaflets and insisted Birmingham was a specialist institution, and not therefore comparable with a general further education college.

The authority disagreed and ruled that Clarendon could no

## The question is, why do you need to pay?

Lucy Hedges on a pace-setting college without fees

Why pay school fees when you can send your offspring to a sixth-form college which is good, and free? Significant numbers of parents in north London answer by sending their sons and daughters to Woodhouse College, in Finchley.

Parents are happy, and the students like it because they are treated more as adults; they have the chance to mix with the opposite sex and they get high-class chat in the canteen.

I am really enjoying it," says Libby Salinow, who is in the lower sixth and came from a comprehensive school in Southgate. "It is really academic and has the most amazing social life. I have met so many people like me, with many similar interests."

A former grammar school, Woodhouse College, with its impressive 18th-century building, retains the ethos of an academic institution. The A-level results have improved since its grammar school days and this year the pass rate was 93 per cent.

How does the college manage to compete so effectively with the private sector? The answer is that it selects more than half its 800 students from a wide range of independent and state schools all over north London and turns away several hundred applicants each year. It also gets rid of a few students who are not making the grade at the end of the first year.

The Principal, Colin Wharton, says: 'We have maintained the structure and

parent evenings and reports. If a problem arises, the college does not hesitate to write home and involve mother and father.'

One reason the college is so popular with students, according to Dr Wharton, is that it offers a broader curriculum than many conventional school sixth forms. Students can study the traditional academic subjects at A level, as well as psychology, design, business studies and accounts. They may also do a wide range of A/S levels, including philosophy, law, and information technology.

## A second place is still winning

David Charter reports on two colleges with remarkable records of success

The influence of the country's most consistently excellent sixth-form college pervaded the top of the examinations league this year despite its fall from first to second place.

Nearly 600 students gained an average of three B's at A level at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, its best performance since the national tables began in 1992. The 575 students averaged 23.9 A-level points each, up on last year's 21.9.

Hills Road was pipped to the summit of the college table by the 25.3 points averaged by 474 candidates at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Philip Eyles, Principal at Stourbridge, admits that the 'Hills Road factor' had a part to play in his own success story. He joined King Edward VI four years ago from his post as Vice-Principal at the Cambridge college. Both he and Colin Greenhalgh, Principal at Hills Road, concede that there is an element of selectivity by both colleges, which gives them an advantage over other colleges.

King Edward VI is oversubscribed by 30 per cent and Hills Road stipulates that students must have B's at GCSE for the A levels they want to study and relevant C's for advanced GNVQs.

Mr Eyles says: 'The results are impressive because they are obtained by children in a metropolitan borough who generally do not have the advantages of children in the shire counties. We are fed entirely by comprehensive schools and have been able to preserve a very positive work ethic.'

Some people would say that we are too exam-orientated, but there is a huge amount of activity going on — for example, there are three plays this term. It is simply a college where a lot is expected.'

At Hills Road, Mr Greenhalgh says: 'There is a strong achievement culture here. People say we have got a good intake and we do have a lot of very hard-working and

committed students, but we have done a lot of work on added value. We add two full A-level grades per student on average. So someone who would have expected to get three C's based on their GCSE results would get two B's and a C.'

The 1,300-student college, founded in 1974, gives priority to youngsters from its immediate area. More than 90 per cent go on to university. However, students say Hills Road is about much more than academic success.

Abigail Clarke, 17, the secretary of the student council, says: 'I think all the students are very aware of the Hills Road reputation but the pressure is not immense. There is very much a feeling that staff are on our side. They are all very approachable on any problems — whether they are college-related or otherwise.'

Hills Road is in the middle of an ambitious building programme, financed by £1 million from its own reserves, £2 million from donors, including lottery money, and a matching grant of £3 million from the Further Education Funding Council. The first phase, a £2 million sports centre available to the community in the evenings, has just opened.

Both Hills Road and King Edward VI have large average class sizes. In Stourbridge, science classes can have 18 students and non-science 20. At Hills Road, the average is 17, but Mr Greenhalgh believes this has advantages.

'It is one reason we are regarded by the funding council and the Government as being very efficient as well as successful,' he says. 'When I was in the sixth form, you had five or six people in small groups and you might be amazingly unlucky and find nobody there would sparkle. It could be quite dull, whereas with 17, you are always going to find some bright sparks.'

IAN MCCARNEY



A student at a girls' school: would it be best for her to stay in a single-sex environment?



Students at Hills Road: there is a strong achievement culture

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## Liability for deceit of wrongdoer

Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd and Another

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Mullen, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Steyn

[Speeches November 21]

Where deceit was practised by an intentional wrongdoer he was liable for the actual damage which directly flowed from the fraudulent inducement, without reference to the transaction date or any other date and foreseeability of such damage was irrelevant.

Where the plaintiff was truly locked into the transaction and there was a sufficient causal link between the fraudulent inducement and the plaintiff's loss, he was to be compensated for all the actual loss suffered by him from the inducement, including all consequential losses, and such a loss was to be measured by comparing his position before the inducement with his position on it.

The plaintiff had to give credit for any benefit he received, including the market value of the asset as at the date of acquisition. He was required to take reasonable steps to mitigate the loss on discovering the fraud.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Smith New Court Securities Ltd, and dismissing a cross-appeal by the second defendant, Citibank NA, from a decision dated February 17, 1994, of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Hoffmann) (*The Times March 19, 1994* 1 WLR 127).

That court had allowed an appeal from Citibank from an order of Mr Justice Chadwick (*The Times April 7, 1992* [1992] BCLC 1104) and varied the order by, inter alia, substituting £1,196,010 for £10,764,005 allowed by the judge to Smith by way of damages.

On July 21, 1989 Mr Roberts, representative of Citibank, which was acting as broker for Scrimgeour Vickers, made fraudulent misrepresentations: first, that

in buying shares in Ferranti International Signal plc, a public company, Smith would be competing with two other bidders; second, when invited to a meeting where Smith were aiming to make an offer, Mr Roberts wrongly stated that he would disclose the competing bids after Smith had made the bid and third, he mentioned that two other named companies had made bids.

Smith bought, for about £23 million, over 28 million shares in Ferranti for £2.25 each with a view to holding them as a market making risk and only selling them as and when an appropriate opportunity arose.

By September 1989 it became known that Mr Gurnin had received a bid from Citibank.

That caused a change in the value of Ferranti's shares. Between November 20, 1989 and April 30, 1990 Smith sold the shares in two parts for 49p to 50p per share. It only received nearly £11 million. Smith brought an action against Scrimgeour Vickers, to which Citibank was added as the second defendant, for damages.

The judge had found, dismissing the action against Scrimgeour Vickers that Smith was induced to enter into an agreement to buy the shares in Ferranti by false and fraudulent representations made by Citibank's representative, Christopher Nigel Roberts. He decided that Smith was entitled to recover damages of £10,754,005, together with interest, from Citibank. That sum represented the difference between the price paid by Smith and the true value of the shares.

Scrimgeour Vickers took no part in the appeals.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for Citibank; Mr Anthony Grabiner, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr John McCaughran for Smith.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON, agreeing with Lord Steyn, added that the law as laid down in cases decided at the end of the nineteenth century, usually in relation to shares purchased in reliance on a fraudulent prospectus

close that it was inconceivable that he would suffer any injustice.

The discretion given by section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as substituted, was a general one, albeit exercised according to established principles, not subject to any rules of the Supreme Court.

The principles were set out by Lord Justice Balcombe in *Symphony Group plc v Hodgson* (*The Times May 4, 1993* [1994] QB 179, 1921-1940) as follows:

1 An order against a non-party was exceptional and should be approached with caution.

2 It would be even more exceptional where the applicant for costs had a cause of action against the non-party and could have joined him in the action.

3 Even if the applicant had good reason for not joining the non-party, he should be warned of the opportunity of the defendant to bring an order so as to give him the opportunity of applying to be joined as a party.

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# Queen removes Princess's name from prayers

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE QUEEN yesterday issued a royal warrant in which she removed the name of Diana, Princess of Wales from the prayers for the Royal Family used in Church of England services.

The Queen, Supreme Governor of the Church, has decreed that the words "Charles Prince of Wales" will replace the words "the Prince and Princess of Wales".

This returns the form of the church's official state prayers, set out in the 1980 Alternative Service Book, to what it was before the 1981 royal marriage.

The Princess's name has already been removed from prayers said in the House of Commons. In synagogues, where prayers are said each Saturday for the Royal Family after the reading of the *Torah*, mention of the Princess was excised shortly after her divorce became final in August.

## New Bible comes with money-back guarantee

A BIBLE whose watchword is political correctness, where Jesus tells his disciples to become "fishers of men and women" rather than just men, has been published with a money-back guarantee for those who do not like the language.

The Bible, which retains the male gender for God, Jesus and demons but changes other terms such as "craftsmen" to "skilled workers", has been revised to ensure that women readers do not feel excluded by its language.

Instead of "man does not live by bread alone", Jesus says: "People do not live on bread alone." "Workers" have become "workers" and words such as "maid" or "girl" have been changed.

However, the New International Version Bible, published by Hodder & Stoughton, is expected to be well-received, having been given the endorsement of two leading evangelicals in the Church of England.



Elaine Storkey, an adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "This Bible faithfully presents to us the biblical texts and makes it wonderfully accessible to a wider than ever readership in our changing society."

Tory MP Sir Teddy Taylor last night described the decision as "cold and cruel". He said: "One of the sad features of public life is that the Princess of Wales, who makes an enormous contribution to so many worthwhile causes, gets so little sympathy in return."

Dame Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Edgbaston, commented: "I feel strongly that she needs praying for very badly indeed."

## Businessman accused of plot to kill Harvey Smith

By A STAFF REPORTER

A RACING tipster who had a business feud with Harvey Smith, the former Olympic showjumper, planned to kill him with a crossbow, a court was told yesterday.

Magistrates at Keighley, west Yorkshire, were told that the threat by Peter Snowden, 50, came to light after he had complained to a fellow businessman of his difficult relationship with Mr Smith.

Heidi Standfast, for the prosecution, said that Mr Snowden, of Ingrow, near Keighley, had disclosed his desire to kill Mr Smith during a meeting with a man called Kevin MacDonald.

It was alleged that Mr MacDonald had been approached by Mr Snowden.

using an alias, to ask whether he wanted to buy shares in two racehorses. During the conversation, Mr Snowden mentioned the crossbow and boasted of having been a crack shot when he was in the Army.

He is alleged to have told Mr MacDonald that he had been watching Mr Smith, who farms and trains horses on the moors above Bingley, in his day-to-day dealings. The jury was told that he said: "I would like to take Harvey Smith out. Just imagine, the man is driving down, the next thing he is dead."

Mr Snowden, who did not enter a plea to the charges, was granted bail on condition that he does not contact Mr Smith or his wife and does not go within a mile of their home.

He said that a High Court action against Mr Smith was imminent and that it would suit the former showjumping champion, "down to the ground" if his client was returned to custody.

Mr Snowden, who did not enter a plea to the charges, was granted bail on condition that he does not contact Mr Smith or his wife and does not go within a mile of their home.

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Marion Leithhead with some of her sheep, which she looks on as her babies: "I am very protective of them, which I can't imagine a man being."

## One woman and her sheep round up top title

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A WOMAN has beaten 100 male competitors to win the coveted sheepherder of the year award. Marion Leithhead, 50, was out as usual yesterday tending her flock of 50 Jacob sheep at Carlin in the Borders region, despite hailstorms and a biting cold wind. Last week she was proclaimed the 1996 Borders Sheep-

herd of the Year, a male preserve for more than 20 years.

Mrs Leithhead, who combines sheepherding with being managing director of a building contractor, said: "My husband Frank and I never had children, so I look upon my sheep as my babies. I am very protective of them, which I can't imagine a man being. I'm not saying women make better shepherds but perhaps they are

more motherly towards their flock." There is nothing more satisfying, she says, than seeing her sheep rushing to meet her as she delivers their feed before dawn on a freezing winter's morning. "It's not an easy life but I wouldn't swap it for the world. I start each day just after 5am, when I go out on my four-wheeled farm bike and check on them. I try to be at the office by 7am and spend a couple of

hours there before coming back to check on the sheep again. Then I go back to the office, spend my lunchtime at home checking on the sheep, go back to the office again after lunch, and, of course, check on the sheep again both before and after Frank and I have our tea." Mrs Leithhead said that she never failed to be moved by the sight of a ewe with its new lamb.

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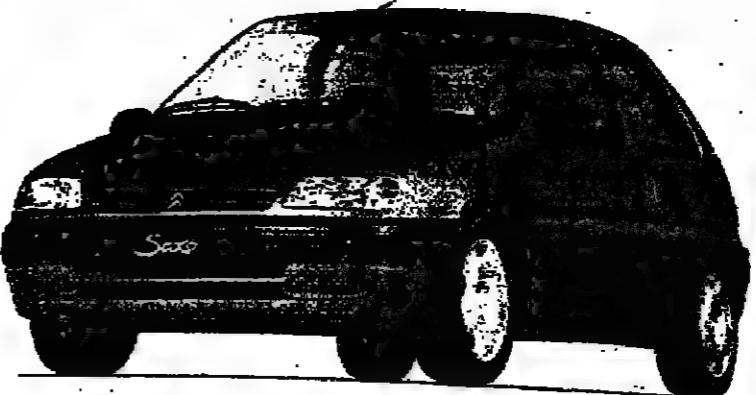
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THE  
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P...p... pick up  
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THREE hacks from *Sunday Business* spent an overnight in Marylebone police station, after they were caught marauding through London Zoo in the middle of the night.

Anil Bhoyrul, acting editor, was lucky enough to escape, after an army of police put an end to the boisterous fun. Charlie Carr, ringleader and head of advertising at the rag, led the drunken pack straight to the penguins. Curiously, this wasn't Carr's first midnight foray to the zoo. He once famously picked up a feathered friend and smuggled it back to his home in a blue holdall. Carr plonked it in his bath, fed it on fish fingers, then returned it to the zoo the next day.

Page marked

BARBARA ROCHE was made to feel most unwelcome at this week's small business conference in Birmingham. On her arrival, the Shadow Small Business Minister was hurried into a nearby waiting room. Contrary to the conference billing, Roche did not appear on the platform with Richard Page, Small Business Minister. Instead, at Page's request, she wasn't allowed on stage until he had been ushered out of a different entrance, ensuring their paths would not cross. Page's office denies that this was the reason. But Roche snarled: "Richard needn't have worried — I would have been very gentle with him."

Conversion due

JOLLY John Antcliffe is joining the dream team at Lowe Bell Financial after almost three years as a director of Dewe Rogerson. I am told that this a marriage made in heaven — Dewe Rogerson looks after Bristol & West, while Lowe Bell takes care of Bank of Ireland. Honest Antcliffe, still in the pay of his present employers, declined an invitation to party with his new colleagues this week. He tells me that he will wait until his contract starts on February 1, earnestly adding: "I want to see the Woolwich conversion right through to the end."



EVER wondered what happens to goods bought with stolen credit cards? From now on, the repossessed items will be donated to Gifts in Kind, the charity launched yesterday by the Prince of Wales.

Deferred

LONG faces at Fleming Investment Management after a Christmas shopping spree had to be cancelled. An all-female team from Flemings was looking forward to an away-day in Paris, entertaining women pension fund consultants on the Eurostar. But because of this week's travel trouble, next Tuesday's trip has been postponed. Instead, the canny ladies are saving their pennies for a new year sales sortie.

RAILTRACK and London Transport are selling their umbrella mountain to commuters today to raise money for Children in Need. More than 1,000 lost property umbrellas will be on sale at 14 stations around Britain.

MORAG PRESTON

# How to raise taxes by £5bn and win a fifth term in office

The Budget  
could leave

Tories with  
£3bn of  
election  
sweeteners

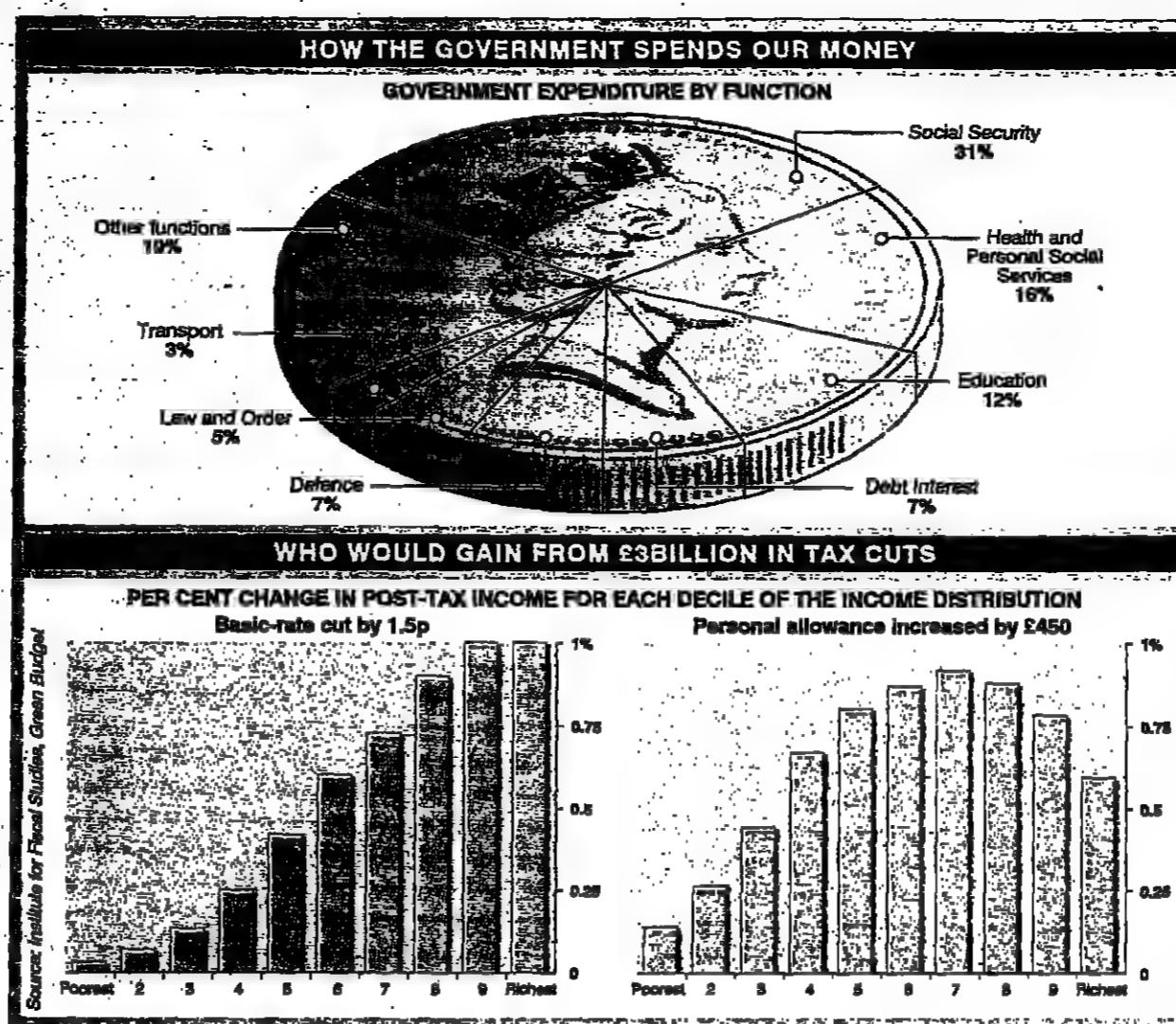
Last week I argued that the best service that Kenneth Clarke could do for the country in the Budget next week would be to announce a tax increase of £5 billion. The task for this column is to propose a package of measures that could plausibly achieve this result. First, a word about public spending. As I noted last week, demand could also be restrained by reducing public spending, rather than merely restricting its rate of growth as Mr Clarke has proposed. In the long run, all kinds of substantial savings could doubtless be achieved. But those who insist that today's economic dilemmas can simply be resolved by cutting public spending must answer two major objections.

First, experience suggests that governments (especially Tory governments) underestimate public spending pressures in their Budgets (especially in pre-election Budgets). Whatever the Chancellor announces next week, the chances are that the out-turn will be higher. It would therefore be rash to rely on even more ambitious targets for administrative savings and wage restraint than the ones Mr Clarke has already set. Genuine cuts are bound to be particularly difficult before elections, because the great bulk of public money is not spent on subsidising scroungers or paying civil servants, but on very popular programmes (see top chart).

Secondly, and more fundamentally, public spending needs to be planned in long cycles. Government programmes cannot be turned on and off like a tap. There may indeed be a strong case for long-term reforms in social security, child benefits and education-financing, as well as for further cuts in defence spending. If such reforms could be implemented, large permanent tax cuts would be justified, but only when the savings were actually achieved.

The key problem for the Budget next week, however, is to restrain demand in a fiscal tightening on this scale, which would probably allow interest rates to be reduced by a half point immediately and then to be pushed even lower, towards the levels prevailing in Germany and France. If demand continued to slow, how then, could a government raise an extra £5 billion in taxes, in today's economic and political environment? "Very easily", here are a few modest proposals:

□ The present buoyancy of the housing market, combined with the possibility of cutting interest rates, in a fiscally tough Budget offers an ideal opportunity to abolish mortgage interest relief at source (Miras). I have criticised past



that there is only one recourse, apart from raising interest rates, to restrain demand in the short-term. This is to increase taxes. A net tax increase of around £5 billion in next week's Budget would take enough demand out of the economy to remove any threat of inflation and obviate any further rise in interest rates. In fact, a fiscal tightening on this scale would probably allow interest rates to be reduced by a half point immediately and then to be pushed even lower, towards the levels prevailing in Germany and France. If demand continued to slow,

How then, could a government raise an extra £5 billion in taxes, in today's economic and political environment? "Very easily", here are a few modest proposals:

□ The present buoyancy of the housing market, combined with the possibility of cutting interest rates, in a fiscally tough Budget offers an ideal opportunity to abolish mortgage interest relief at source (Miras). I have criticised past

Budget were combined with a half-point reduction in interest rates, to restrain demand in the short-term. This is to increase taxes. A net tax increase of around £5 billion in next week's Budget would take enough demand out of the economy to remove any threat of inflation and obviate any further rise in interest rates. In fact, a fiscal tightening on this scale would probably allow interest rates to be reduced by a half point immediately and then to be pushed even lower, towards the levels prevailing in Germany and France. If demand continued to slow,

abolishing the imputation system completely, the Chancellor could raise a further £1 billion annually simply by cutting the imputation rate to 15 per cent. Of course this money would have to come from somewhere. Tampering with imputation might push down share prices and would certainly reduce the actuarial surplus of pension funds, forcing people to save slightly more for their retirement. But that is all the more reason to act now, when share prices are in a bull market, pension funds are flush with cash and the booming economy makes it desirable to channel personal incomes into savings rather than consumption.

□ Higher indirect taxes would add another £1.5 billion a year to my revenue-raising package. The first obvious area is insurance, where an increase in the premium tax from 2.5 per cent to the 5 per cent minimum VAT level in Europe would raise about £700 million. The second is motoring and environmental taxation. Despite Norman Lamont's courageous decision to raise petrol taxes by 5 per cent annually in real terms, Britain still has some of the world's lowest petrol prices and encourages the use of diesel, probably the most detrimental fuel. Considering Britain's high population density and the close correlation between traffic congestion and economic growth, a period of strong economic recovery would be the best possible

time to raise motoring taxation, as well as to increase the levies on landfills and industrial polluters. Such taxes could easily yield an additional £800 million.

□ The final area for the Chancellor's attention should be the North Sea. The Government's total revenues from oil and gas production has fallen to £1.5 billion from a 1984 peak of £12 billion. In 1981, when oil prices were high and it became apparent that the North Sea was more lightly taxed than comparable areas of production, Sir Geoffrey Howe introduced a supplementary petroleum duty to raise £2 billion a year. Today, with oil prices again approaching the levels of the mid-1980s, an increase of £1 billion in North Sea taxation would surely not be too much to demand.

Between them, the above measures would raise taxes by about £8 billion. Let us now suppose Mr Clarke wanted to earn some populist election-winning headlines. He could remit £3 billion of these extra revenues by cutting the standard rate of tax and widening the 20p band. Alternatively, he could please the business community by introducing a lower rate of capital gains tax for long-term investment, a measure that might cost £500 million or so — and still leave himself enough money to increase substantially the tax-free personal allowance or the threshold for national insurance, which would do more than any other measure to help the poor and help the unemployed back into jobs.

Such headline-grabbing tax cuts, along with a half-point cut in interest rates, would leave most voters no worse off than they were before the Budget. Meanwhile, the Treasury would enjoy a net tax increase of £5 billion. The economy would be protected from inflationary overheating. Industry would be saved from the overvalued pound. And the Tories might even deserve to win the election.

## Retroactive windfall tax no better than legalised robbery

From Mr Richard Thomas

Sir, Surely there is an important principle at stake in the current discussion about a windfall tax to be levied on the utility companies: in a democracy, the government may not impose retroactive legislation. If one were to do so, it would cross the threshold into totalitarianism.

For many years I have been made uneasy by successive chancellors' Budget speeches in which they announce certain taxes which are to be increased with almost immediate effect. At that stage the Finance Bill has yet to be debated in Parliament, let alone having received the Royal Assent and so become law.

But Labour's proposed windfall tax would be quite

definitely retroactive in application and therefore nothing better than legalised robbery. An earlier Parliament refused to allow King Henry VII to antedate his reign to the day before Bosworth so he could indict King Richard III's adherents with treason. Will our next Parliament recognise their same moral obligation to the nation?

Yours faithfully  
RICHARD THOMAS  
18 Kings Avenue  
Woodford Green, Essex

### Jobs claim wrong

From Mr Ray Albinson

Sir, It seems the assertions by the utilities (*The Times*, November 8) that this [windfall] tax would involve further job losses are unjustified.

above the long-term trend rise in productivity. For one thing, setting out on a path of 5 per cent p.a. growth will create an investment boom which may well increase the trend rate of productivity growth. One can also question whether, given ultimate limits on raw materials and energy, an ever growing economy is even desirable.

It seems improbable that the very real problems identified by Professor Marris will be permanently solved by a rate of growth significantly

as a great success for "cutting the fat", ie massive staffing cuts that improved efficiency and lowered costs. The statements already made that further job cuts would have to follow the tax mean that there is still at least some "fat" to cut — is this not good reason for increasing the proposed tax to achieve this cut? Why should an increase in efficiency suddenly become a bad thing? Particularly if the gain is distributed by way of tax revenue to the previous owner's whose assets were sold so cheaply.

Yours faithfully

ROY ALBINSON  
Courtaulds,  
Mayfield Lane,  
Wadhurst,  
East Sussex

## What's the point of a yo-yo pound?

From Mr Keith E. Hunter

Sir, Roger Bootle (*The Times*, November 8) should know that one currency's revaluation is another's devaluation. During the whole of this year we have been advised that the mark and the franc were grossly overvalued. How then could any chancellor or European finance minister buck a market waiting for the right moment to achieve devaluation of the mark and the franc "by other means"? Those of us who have had to pay management charges to French property service companies in recent years have witnessed events in France that made the franc a nonsense.

We might wonder why British exporters need the status of the pound to be reduced to that of a rouble or a rupee, rather than rely on product quality, innovation and good after-sales service etc. Are we to be condemned for ever more to having a yo-yo currency? Yours faithfully,  
KEITH E. HUNTER,  
39 Moorfield Road,  
Ilkley,  
West Yorkshire.

are appropriate to a world in which a small minority of the population. The main problems seem to be firstly establishing and gaining general acceptance for the principles and mechanisms for distribution of both work and income, and, secondly, educating the population, not so much for work as for a life substantially or completely to be spent in leisure.

Yours faithfully,  
RAINER BURCHETT,  
29 Alderham Avenue,  
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Letters to *The Times*  
Business section  
can be sent by fax  
on 0171-782 5112.

# Old habits die hard as French launch private pension debate

Employees may be reluctant to lose a state system, writes Adam Sage

After five years of debate, hesitation and false starts, the French Government is to introduce private pension funds to a country that relies almost exclusively on its ailing social security system.

The proposal to create pension funds went before the French National Assembly yesterday, with the Socialists promising to oppose them and the Government determined that they should become law by January.

Despite fierce controversy over a project seen by unions as an attack on traditional state pensions, the Gaullist-led cabinet says that it is determined to push through a law that will pave the way for private pension schemes.

Not only will the proposals mark a radical change in the way the French plan for retirement, but they could also revolutionise the Paris stock market, which is smaller and weaker than its main counterparts abroad.

According to Arnaud d'Uvoire, general-secretary of the Pensions' Observatory, a Paris-based quango set up to oversee the pensions system, such high levels could only be maintained if workers paid about 12 per cent of their earnings into the state's scheme — an unacceptable amount.

"At the moment, the only people who take a significant fall in earnings when they retire are the very high paid," he said. "But in the future, that situation is going to reach the middle classes and even the working classes. Without a miracle, the state pension is going to decline."

He is not, however, convinced that the new funds will be as successful as their supporters claim. Politically sensitive proposals to boost the private pension industry have been floated several times by different governments since the start of the decade but shelved on every previous occasion.

Observers say that the Prime Minister could be forced to limit tax deductions and maintain an obligation to make payments into the state pension system in order to ensure his proposals are politically acceptable.

Emmanuel Reynaud, a pensions expert at the Institute of Social and Economic Studies, based in Paris, said: "I'm not sure that French pension funds will be very successful. Those promoting the project hope it will make the Paris stock market more active. But for this to happen, employees will need to sign up and that will take a very long time."



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# Babcock halves payout despite modest advance

By CLARE STEWART

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, is halving its interim dividend payment despite a small recovery in first-half profits.

Benefits from restructuring helped the group to lift pre-tax profits to £2.7 million, against £2.2 million last time and a £19.3 million full-year loss at the end of 1995. Including a one-off gain, pre-tax profits for the six months to September rose to £4.4 million. Group sales have fallen to £319.7 million, from £393.7 million.

Babcock, which has had a chequered past few years, is cutting its interim dividend from 1.25p to 0.625p. It is to be paid as a foreign income dividend.

Nick Salmon, chief executive, said that the results marked a "major turnaround from last year". Dr John Parker, chairman, said that the group's rehabilitation programme had been "tough-

er and more demanding" than expected.

The group announced completion of the long drawn out negotiations over privatisation of the Rosyth Royal Dockyard, which it has previously run under a management contract. Despite securing ownership of the dockyard, details of the deal are still under wraps. The cost is expected to be between £20 million and £30 million.

The contribution from the dockyard, which refits Royal Navy ships and submarines, together with an improved result from Railcare, helped to boost profits within Babcock's Facilities Management division. Operating profits rose 31 per cent to £7.54 million.

There was a marked turnaround in Babcock's materials handling division, where last year's losses, of £1.87 million, were reversed, for a £985,000 profit. The result was largely

due to restructuring within its German business, which moved back into profits. Within the division, however, the Wood Group showed a loss, which was blamed on "low order volumes and problems in completing several contracts". Wood is expected to break even by full-time.

The Process Engineering division incurred a loss of £2.08 million (£1.9 million operating profit), partly owing to the difficulty of winning new and substantial orders to replace work lost last year in Saudi Arabia.

Babcock Environmental losses grew from £1.8 million to £2.4 million, while those at the Africa division were £1.8 million.

Analysts are pencilling in profits of £10 million for the year end. Shares in Babcock moved up 6p to close at 69p.

Tempus, page 30



Lee Portrioi, managing director, left, with Gitu Panjabi and Dan Nathanson, director of Barclays Global Investors

## BZW launches with-profit fund

BARCLAYS Global Investors is to capitalise on the growing demand for second-hand life policies with the launch of a new fund (Marianne Curphey writes). It will invest in traded with-profit endowment assurance policies, known in the

industry as TEPs, and aims to sell to financial intermediaries and private investors.

The fund, to be known as the BZW Endowment Fund II, aims to raise up to £25 million, and to diversify the risk between policies of differ-

ent life offices, policy terms, and maturity dates. Gitu Panjabi, business development manager of Barclays Global Investors, said a total of 13.5 million shares would be placed and the balance of 11.5 million shares will be offered for subscription by the public. If the offer is oversubscribed, the shares will be distributed on a first come first served basis. The issue has been increased by five million shares to 25 million to meet expected demand.

## Shares in NAB race to record

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

SHARES in National Australia Bank (NAB) surged 27 cents to a record A\$14.19 yesterday after group profits exceeded A\$2 billion for the first time.

The bank, Australia's biggest and the owner of Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank and National Irish Bank, unveiled a rise in operating profits from A\$1.97 billion to A\$2.10 billion (£1 billion) for the year to September 1996. The UK contribution fell 4 per cent to A\$403 million, largely as a result of problems at Yorkshire Bank, where bad and doubtful debts jumped from A\$77 million to A\$158 million.

Profits from NAB's Australian operations were flat, at A\$1.28 billion, held back 100 by a rise in bad and doubtful debts. The bank also announced plans to spend about A\$180 million buying back about 13 million of its own shares. The bank has made no secret of its desire to expand through acquisition. It is widely expected to be a player after the relaxation of restrictions on mergers and takeovers that is expected next year.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Nursing Home Properties to grow

NURSING HOME PROPERTIES, which specialises in the purchase and leaseback of nursing homes, said it plans to raise \$100 million early next year to continue its expansion programme. The amount will be raised by selling existing leases to a special purpose vehicle, which will be owned by a charitable trust. The money will be used to build on Nursing Home Properties' portfolio, which comprises 34 nursing homes with almost 2,000 beds.

Nursing Home Properties reported pre-tax profits of £1.14 million in the year to the end of September against a profit of £140,000 on turnover of £3.51 million, up 326 per cent. Earnings per share were 4.44p, up 91 per cent. A final dividend of 1.25p makes the total dividend 3.7p, compared with 0.8p. The 18-month-old company is listed on the AIM market and intends to seek a London Stock Exchange listing next year.

## Cash injection for Tops

TOPS ESTATES, the town centre retail property specialist, is getting a £20 million cash injection from three institutions that are taking a half share in Tops' Leeds Shopping Plaza. The plaza is being transferred to a vehicle in which Orion-Vink, Lombury Property Trust and United Bank of Kuwait will subscribe for half the shares. The deal will reduce Tops' gearing from 170 per cent to 124 per cent. The £64 million plaza is undergoing a redesign. Its rental income is expected to increase from £4 million to £4.4 million over 18 months.

## Hiscox acquisition

HISCOX, the insurance group, is seeking to buy out its subsidiary, Hiscox Underwriting, for about £3.2 million. Hiscox Underwriting sources business from the UK and mainland Europe which has not been traditionally offered to the Lloyd's market. During 1995, it introduced £27.5 million of gross written premium income to four Hiscox Syndicates. The deal is intended to raise the profile of Hiscox Underwriting's products, and end the requirement for payment of Lloyd's standard levies. The acquisition will be effective from January 1.

## Shield Diagnostics dips

A SHARP decline in the sales of infectious disease testing equipment pushed Shield Diagnostics, the medical diagnostics company, into loss in the half year to the end of September. The Dundee company blamed the downturn on the decline in sales of its syphilis test and the German Government's retreat on its commitment to test all pregnant women for Chlamydia. Shield reported a pre-tax loss of £291,100 in the period, against a profit of £43,600 previously, on turnover that was flat at £2.73 million.

## Crowe capital vehicle

NEW LONDON CAPITAL, which provides underwriting capacity at Lloyd's of London, is investing £7.3 million in a new venture with Crowe Insurance Group to create a dedicated capital vehicle. New London will take an effective 55 per cent holding in Crowe Corporate Capital, which will have initial net assets of £9.3 million. Crowe Corporate will underwrite capacity for the 1997 year of £38 million across the six syndicates it manages. This will take 1997 underwriting capacity for the enlarged vehicle to £155 million.

## Bigger loss at Vocalis

VOCALIS, the speech technology company that reported its first interim yesterday, said sales in the half year to the end of September were slightly below expectations but orders in the second half are gaining momentum. The latest order comes from Folec Communications of Singapore, which will distribute Vocalis speech systems in the Asia-Pacific region. The company, floated on the London Stock Exchange at 95p a share in July, reported a £853,000 pre-tax loss (£564,000 loss) on turnover of £629,000, up 153 per cent.

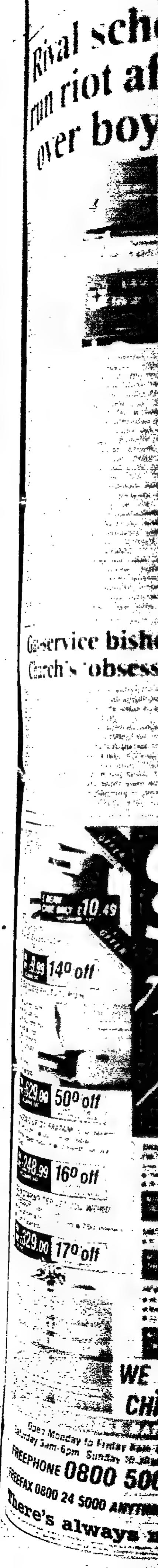
## Charterhouse float

CHARTERHOUSE Communications, publisher of *What Mortgage* and *What Investment*, is floating on the Alternative Investment Market with an estimated market capitalisation of £5 million. Just over 40 per cent of share capital will be available at 5p per share, with directors and managers holding the remaining shares. Turnover for 1996 was £3.7 million, compared to £2.8 million the previous year; profits were £665,000, up from £36,000.

## Chloride ready to buy

CHLORIDE, the electronics group, is to spend the £14.7 million it will gain from the closure of its pension fund on a bumper acquisition. Keith Hodgkinson, chief executive, said that after having severed its links with its battery-making roots two months ago, the company had decided to use the money to fund a sizeable buy. Chloride returned pre-tax profits of £4.79 million (£3.54 million for the half year to September 30. An interim dividend of 0.18p (0.133p) is due on January 31.

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## ■ FUNDING

Lord Gowrie leads the Arts Council into the brave new world of arts for everyone'



## ■ THEATRE 1

In London's oldest cinema, Emily Lloyd joins the cast for *Max Klapper*, a 'play with film'



## ■ THEATRE 2

... while the Nottingham Playhouse presents the belated British premiere of Lepage's *Elsinore*



## ■ THEATRE 3

... and the National offers *Fair Ladies*, a quirky insight into 18th-century Japanese drama

Richard Morrison on the Arts Council's bold decision to promote 'grassroots' projects with lottery funds

# Culture for all? Yes, it's official

If you always wanted to transform the kids hanging round your street corner into a wicked clog-dancing outfit, you will never get a better chance. If your neighbourhood needs freshening up with a few walls of legit graffiti, start spreading the paint.

If your embryonic Oasis lacks only a pair of mind-blowing loudspeakers, this is the moment to press your claim to fame. The Arts Council — hitherto a fairly staunch supporter of the "it don't mean a thing if it ain't professional" theory of subsidy — has suddenly gone stark, staring populist.

Yesterday Lord Gowrie's bureaucrats unveiled Arts for Everyone — a project which, in their new funky mood, they insist on abbreviating to "A4E". In the next year alone an estimated £20 million of lottery money will go to the scheme. The Arts Council is sending out 50,000 application forms and hoping that 10,000 groups will apply.

If that happens, it will signal a massive expansion. A Big Bang, in state patronage of the arts. It may not quite mean arts for everyone, but it will certainly be hard to walk down any high street without bumping into somebody who has benefited from an Arts Council lottery grant. To borrow a phrase, it could be you.

So how does "A4E" work? Well, there are two strands. Local groups applying for smaller grants — from £500 and £5,000 — will head for a nine-month pilot scheme called A4E Express. This is radical stuff. Arts Council scrutiny of your artistic quality or accounts you'd never even need to be a properly constituted company; no long wait-period; minimum red tape. "We could be accused of subsidising low-quality art," admits Caroline Leach of the Arts Council. "But here we see that the process of producing art is almost as important as its product."

Applicants simply need to be backed by two independent referees. And, of course, to have a bright idea or using the grant. That idea has to meet at least one of Arts for Everyone's five guiding criteria: encouraging participation; getting young people involved; building new audiences; supporting new



work; and developing skills. It is hard to think of a single leisure pursuit that wouldn't qualify — but that is the point. The A4E Express pilot scheme (which will have two deadlines: January 31 and April 30) is designed to spread the lottery largesse as widely and — in the most positive sense — as indiscriminately as possible. Even the requirement for applicants to provide some "partnership funding" is subsumed by Sir Cameron Mackintosh's decision to donate £100,000 a year for five years specifically for this purpose.

Meanwhile, the bigger scheme will give grants of up to £500,000 to more established groups. They will have to satisfy at least three of the

criteria listed above. The emphasis is firmly on developing new audiences or new work.

Taken together, the Arts for Everyone projects represent a revolution in arts policy. First, lottery money is at last being openly used to fund people rather than buildings. Not before time, many would say. Admittedly, £20 million is mere pocket-money compared with the £350 million committed to the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, or the £78 million going to the Royal Opera House development. But taken together with the "stabilisation fund" announced in the summer and the new scheme in provide grants for performing-arts students, Arts for Everyone does

suggest a new flexibility in official thinking about how lottery money is spent.

Secondly, the A4E Express scheme, by its very nature, will be largely unpreserved. That is risky. Some of those grants will undoubtedly produce low-quality art, or even no-quality art. But the risk is worth taking. For too long the Arts Council has been perceived as a cosy support-agency for a comparatively narrow band of favoured professionals. If this scheme realises the potential of groups that do not fit into sophisticated metropolitan notions of "good taste" or "quality", so much the better.

"There's never been anything quite like Arts for Everyone."

trumpeted the Arts Council yesterday. "It's intended to refresh the arts other funding schemes cannot reach..." For once, that boast seems justified. But it does beg a question: if Arts for Everyone is such a great idea, why has it taken the Arts Council 50 years to think of it? More specifically, why has this brilliant use of lottery money only been introduced now, two years after the lottery was set up?

Cynics will claim that Arts for Everyone has been instigated only after millions of pounds have already been lavished on Arts for Very Few People. They will also point to Labour's threats to overturn lottery grants to the arts if they don't meet "the people's priorities".

Setting up a grassroots scheme like A4E Express could defuse complaints about too much lottery money going to a charmed circle of London culture palaces.

But however questionable the motivation or tardy the initiative, Arts for Everyone should be welcomed. If 5,000 groups who have never been publicly funded suddenly receive the money to do something imaginative, a huge store of latent creative talent could be unlocked. And, with a bit of luck, the old charge of "elitism" that has dogged the Arts Council for half a century could finally be rebutted.

Information packs about Arts for Everyone can be obtained by phoning 0890 100344

THEATRE: David Farr pays tribute to cinema through his 'play with film'; plus an unlikely Japanese hit, and Lepage's multimedia extravaganza

## Celebration without fizz

Max Klapper — A Life in Pictures  
Electric Cinema, W1

his eyes in despair; now he will create his revenge.

His secret gradually emerges through a fairly familiar tale of dictatorial genius battling with philistine producer (nice performance by Jim Dunk). Anthony Higgins makes Klapper look and sound an entirely credible figure, obsessed, uncompromising. But though many a film director has played God, I never believed in the power of Klapper's obsession.

Farr's production contains many incidental pleasures.



A Forties star is born: Emily Lloyd and Anthony Higgins

Elsinore  
Nottingham Playhouse

REPUTEDLY Britain's first purpose-built cinema, the Electric housed live performances from its beginning, though back in 1910 this was only the squint-eyed pianist adjusting the speed of his fingers to the burbling chariot of the first *Quo Vadis*. For live action you would have had to go down to the theatres of Shepherds Bush, or nowadays up the Finsbury Road to the Gate at Nonsuch Hill.

It is the Gate that is currently breathing a sort of life into the Electric, to celebrate the first hundred years of moving pictures with a show that combines play and film. But the excerpts from a film purporting to be a 1948 Hollywood epic, directed by Ben Hopkins, add little to the unfolding drama, and while the sequence of screen tests is amusing, the famous director's memory of a 1914 silent, thought neatly pastiched (Hopkins again), identifies the heart of his mystery in a manner obscure enough to make *Citizen Kane* seem a banal narrative exercise.

David Farr's "play with film" imagines an exiled German director of the *Friz Lang* type, even down to the black leporello. Max Klapper is barking for the actress of his dreams, physically like the silent star who played opposite him when he himself was an actor. Back in 1914 he lost the girl to the other man, and seemingly struck out one of

AFTER an abortive attempt at the Edinburgh Festival, the British premiere of Robert Lepage's one-man meditation on *Hamlet* finally happened in Nottingham on Wednesday. It is titled *Elsinore* to emphasise that it is not the whole play, and Lepage likens the project to the preliminary studies artists undertake before embarking on the painting.

The infamous technology, which prevented the Edinburgh opening, consists of a combination of screens, projections, and a central panel that can be vertical or horizontal and which has a circular revolve and an abiding opening within it. It can become the forbidding walls of the castle, a library, a basement window, a rooftop, or the deck of a ship. The set takes on a restless life of its own, which is sometimes distracting. But

on a second viewing the technology was less blinding and it was possible to concentrate on the thought behind it. Although Lepage has had great fun with this piece, he is never trivial, and the work operates on several levels.

And you cannot deny that it is a technical feat. Quite apart from the screens, revolts and hydraulics, it takes some discipline for one man to play six or more male and two female characters, while also evoking the full cast. The more so when that solitary actor is a French-Canadian. After much coaching, Lepage has made

FOR A time, I expected an awful ersatz evening in *Mikado*-era Japan. The programme told me that *Fair Ladies* was Peter Oswald's attempt to recreate in "unrhymed pentameters" a puppet play by the 18th-century dramatist Chikamatsu. The well of the Cottesloe (in its narrow, open-plan mode for the occasion) began to fill with British actors wearing plats, gowns, Samurai swords and cowls. The first speaking characters were the Moon, a lady in a white gown, and the Timour, a small boy inscrutably carrying a birdcage.

"Blood Wedding meets *Beatrix Potter*," muttered the friend behind me.

We were mostly wrong. This is one of the National's more improbable raids on the world's dramatic archives, but also one of its more rewarding. Though Oswald's unrhyming pentameters can never disconcertingly from the lapidary to the leathery, he has a strong story to tell and a fascinatingly odd world to evoke. Think of Victorian England, Golden-Age Spain, Neo-Classical France — but no, each seems like laid-back California beside the fiercely honourable and hierarchical Japan that the authors are describing.

This is a world in which Samurai ferociously quarrel about whether they belong to grade four or five, are happy to commit suicide for such

through his movements — the cross of a leg denotes quite clearly the difference between Gertrude and Claudius. Lepage is wonderfully still and composed in these switches. At the same time, all the characters are imbued with the same languid serenity, sinister in Claudius, endearing in Ophelia and melancholy in Hamlet, but ultimately suggesting that all of them are projections in Hamlet's own head. We are seeing the play through his eyes.

If *Elsinore* loses in emotion what it gains in theatrical ingenuity, Lepage acknowledges and intellectually justifies that fact. His thesis is that at the heart of Hamlet's moral crisis is a lack of passion. Are every moment insular, action caves in to analysis and intellectualising. So it is with *Elsinore*.

## Nasty oriental business

with affection and, surprisingly, even a little flexibility. If I came to shrug, I left John Crowley's resourceful production to applaud.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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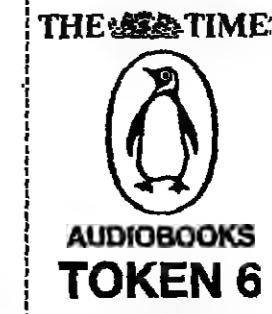
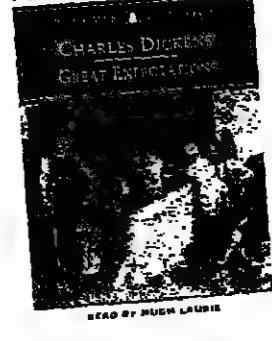
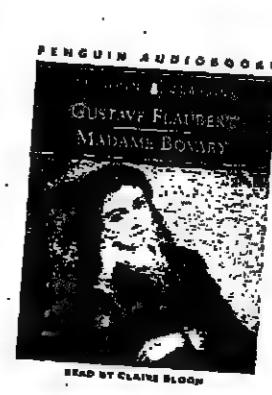
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THE TIMES



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CHANGING TIME



## ■ POP 1

Def Leppard proved to the Dublin crowd only that their best years are behind them



## ■ POP 2

... and the support band, Terrorvision, never turned up — but they did send their T-shirts



## ■ POP 3

Michelle Shocked celebrates her 'anti-slavery' victory over her former record company



## ■ POP 4

For that authentic 'morning after' lyricism, give me the Aloof every time, says Caitlin Moran

## Dog-eared cats

"DON'T forget us, and we won't forget you," Joe Elliott told the audience at the Point towards the end of Def Leppard's first Dublin show in four years. Sadly, the words seemed more like a desperate plea than a vow of solidarity, and contained the painful truth about the veteran soft-metal gurus: their best years are behind them.

But at least they turned up. The atrocious weather prevented the scheduled support band, Terrorvision, from

before long he was off punching the air again while yet another choreographed guitar solo took shape in front of the Marshall amps.

Even if we accept the limitations of this traditionalist approach — as the band itself do, all too readily — there's still no getting away from the fact that their audience increasingly does not. A sparse attendance inevitably resulted in a devastating lack of atmosphere, and it was always going to be an uphill struggle to whip up the necessary frenzy. An acoustic interlude of more than one song would have been advisable.

That said, the crowd was appreciative of the group's efforts. Newer material from the recent *Slang* album was given an airing, but inevitably it was the bankable hits such as *Animal*, *Photograph* and *Armageddon* that were most rousing performed. After a gutsy *Pour Some Sugar On Me*, the calls for an encore were heartfelt. But, to be brutally honest, this was an all-too-forgettable show.

NICK KELLY

## Marginal response

ONE of Britain's most cultured singer-songwriters returns to London and the Jazz Café is markedly under-attended for the occasion. One hardly knows whether to smile at the opportunity to catch up with Clive Gregson or to cry at such a lukewarm response.

In fine form whatever the turnout, Gregson himself has gone for the former option. A veteran of the post-punk music scene of the late Seventies with his rock group Any Trouble, he spent the Eighties reshaping himself into a respected, folk-inclining acoustic performer.

He now resides in Nashville, and it is tempting to say that it was this country's marginalisation of such artists that drove him away. His return for a 19-date solo tour marks the release of his latest album for Demon, *I Love This Town*, another cluster of poignant commentaries on love and loss. The album was the framework for

Clive Gregson  
Jazz Café, NW1

a warming evening, with upbeat pieces of rock'n'roll whimsy such as *Geography* and *Secondhand Car* conveyed just as well on acoustic guitar as the delicate and lovelorn *Things I Didn't Do* and *Ramshackle Road*. Gregson's unforced, self-effacing humour was working well too, as he introduced the new album's *Love Casts A Long Shadow* as "a song I wrote for The Beatles... six months ago". A cover of *Take That's Back For Good* was an unexpected pleasure, as was *Fred Astaire*, one of a number of new Gregson songs. And for those of us who fought in the power-pop wars in the Eighties, it was a delight to hear him dismiss Any Trouble's *All The Time in the World*, and, as encores, *Touch and Go* and their old rallying call, *Open Fire*. He may work in the margins, but Gregson's contribution continues to fill the page.

PAUL SEXTON

Where has Michelle Shocked been lately? Playing star wars, she tells Nigel Williamson

## Look who's back in charge



Michelle Shocked: back in Britain and back in full control of her music

**C**lashes between the corporate and the creative have long been a part of the music industry. Few such struggles, however, have been more bitter than the one involving Michelle Shocked. For almost four years, Mercury, the company to which the American singer was contracted, refused even to speak to her. Then she issued a law suit citing the 13th amendment to the American Constitution, the one which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. Shocked has just won both the case and complete control over her career and artistic direction.

People might say I'm difficult, but did you ever hear anyone describe a label as difficult?" she says. "By nature, artists should challenge. When they call you difficult it is a reflection of the imbalance of power."

"The corporate culture is based on intimidation. They had very narrow expectations of what I should do. It never occurred to me that business people and lawyers could try to define art."

After releasing three successful albums of witty, intelligent songs between 1988 and 1992, songs that drew deeply on the folk traditions of American music, Shocked decided she wanted to do something different. "Actually I planned to have a nervous breakdown and from the ashes of that find my true voice," she says. "Then I proposed a funky rhythm and blues album."

The record company president asked for an acoustic album. Shocked refused; her existing contract purportedly gave her control over artistic content. Compromises were made. Shocked submitted a modified proposal and was all ready to record a new album in late 1992 — when

she was told that the studio would not allow her in. The record company was still not happy and would not pay for the studio time. She was effectively being prevented from recording, but at the same time the company would not allow her to sign for anyone else.

She spent the next three years touring — "keeping in touch with my audience" — and then her lawyers hit upon the idea of using the anti-slavery amendment. Shocked employed Leigh Steinberg, one of the biggest names in

■ I could  
call  
this the  
victory  
tour ■

American law who helped to bring about the free agency of sports stars. The case potentially had huge repercussions and other labels started telling Mercury that it could not be allowed to reach court. In the settlement Shocked was freed and has signed to a more sympathetic label.

The result is a staggeringly fine new album, *Kind Hearted Woman*, full of desperately moving songs about hard-luck characters from the American backwoods. Several reviewers have described it as bleak, but they have missed the point. True, the stories are often harrowing — about a stillborn child, a hit-and-run killing, a boy who watches his father struck by lightning. But, in the best Steinbeck tradition of American story-telling, Shocked's empathy for these characters

means that the songs become a celebration of the human spirit, showing the extraordinary qualities of ordinary people when put under almost intolerable pressure. "There's a very frail human being telling these stories and there are melodramatic metaphors to talk about my own frustration," she says.

Shocked, a name she adopted when she ran away from her Mormon parents at 15, refuses to exult over her legal success. "I could call this the victory tour and pose as the David who conquered Goliath. But that is not what the heart and the soul are about. Now I'm free I just want to move on."

She thinks, however, that her case means "a sea change" in which artists everywhere are going to demand greater control over their intellectual property.

Shocked is not only magnanimous in victory, but artistic freedom has made her more relaxed about other areas of her life. She still burns with integrity, but can now talk about her strange upbringing more openly than for years. She admits that she still has not come to terms with being raised by "a wild bunch of Mormons", but is at an age where she is thinking about having children herself. "That means for the first time I can understand the viewpoint of the 15-year-old girl I was and that of my mother who was 34 when I left. Having kids means you have a little bit of spiritual real estate you've invested in the destiny of the planet."

At this rate she might even have to change her name again — although Michelle Mellowed doesn't have quite the same ring.

■ *Kind Hearted Woman* by BMG. Michelle Shocked plays Shepherds Bush Empire on Monday

## Tail-end to a mad night

feel sad or sick, but afterwards you feel very alive" Dean enthuses. "And minor-chord records are intensely personal." Ricky puts in: "You can't really share a hugely sad record with anyone else. It has to be just you, your headphones and the Repeat button."

The Aloof's new single, *One Night Stand*, demands that you listen to it alone, strapped into headphones and turned over the "Repeat" button all night. It brings to mind the



CAITLIN MORAN

scene in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* when Richard Dreyfuss is sucked up, through a tunnel of white light, into the glittering gold interior of the mothership. It's very big and verging on the edge of collapse. The 32-piece orchestra adds that *Day in the Life* vibe of chaotic, speeding horror, and the lyrics see Ricky wailing that he "Feels nothing at all/I feel no shame... and, er, what was her name?"

Ricky walked out on his wife and two children for a while last year, and *One Night Stand* sums up the dizzy sickness and fear a stranger's bed arouses. Radio 1 is playing it like mad at the moment, and whatever's played either side of it sounds tinnily cheap and entirely crushable.

"The one thing we all agree on is that we can't sound like anyone else," Dean says, which is a prime band cliché, but also true in the Aloof's case. "We'll play a track over and over again, and really live with it, and if it reminds us of anyone else we'll scrap it."

The Aloof are moving into a league that contains the Alof and no one else. The new album promises to be astonishing. In the meantime, there's the magnificence of *One Night Stand* and *Sinking* to keep us going.

■ *One Night Stand* is released on East West Records on Monday. *Sinking* is still available

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## ■ POP 5

Against the odds; Prince's triple-CD epic, *Emancipation*, proves sharp, inventive and vital



## ■ POP 6

Chris Rea quaintly serenades the motor-racing world in tandem with Shirley Bassey on *La Passione*



## THE TIMES POP ARTS



## ■ POP 7

Ghastly gangsta rap is purveyed shamelessly and menacingly by Snoop Doggy Dogg on *Tha Doggfather*



## ■ POP 8

Mike Henderson evokes the era of hard-hittin', hard-livin' blues on his rollicking *First Blood*



He sings, he plays, he wears a joke beard made out of caviar — is there no end to Prince's talents?

## Who put the dip in the dipdidipdidip?

**V**ocal group music, or "doo wop," the name it was given for the non-vocal choruses of hundreds of records, is like baseball, a particularly American institution that never appeared to travel that well.

Based on the four-part harmonies created by groups such as the Ink Spots and the Mills Brothers in the 1930s and 1940s, but given a rhythm and blues and sometimes gospel tinge, it proved hugely popular with black audiences in America before crossing over into the pop charts with groups like the Platters and the Drifters. It also inspired a generation of white groups such as Dan and the Belmonts and the Four Seasons.

Like many homegrown and regional styles of American popular music it all came crashing down after the arrival of the Beatles, although by that time many of the black groups were embracing the

more up-to-date rhythms of soul music.

Dead, then, but not forgotten. In the years since, the interest in doo wop has increased not only in America but, surprisingly, in Europe — home of many recent re-issues.

For those new to the genre, the best place to start is the recently released *Doo Wop Box 2* (Rhino R2/R4 72507), a four-CD, 101-track trawl through the best of the music, which follows on from the pioneering *Box 1* issued a few years back. It starts with the former gospel group, the Miracles, singing *My Reverie*, which bears the intriguing composed credits of Larry Clinton and Claude Debussy from 1951 and ends with the Italian/American group the Classics and *Till Then*, a Top 20 hit in America in 1963.

In between there is every-



The fabulous Ink Spots, spiritual fathers of doo wop

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## Coterie of many colours

**T**HE Rare Music Club is the brainchild of pianist Keith Tippett, its mission to combine contemporary compositions, traditional folk music and freely improvised jazz and explore the cross-currents between them. Although there have been long gaps between concerts, its renaissance at the Arnolfini was marked by some exceptional playing and the premier of a new jazz suite for octet by saxophonist Paul Dunmall.

One effect of the Club's existence is that it has created audiences that are open-minded enough to concentrate intensely across genres. "You can hear the audience listening," said Andrew Ball, the classical pianist who opened the programme with some brief fragments by Howard Skempton, before tackling Thomas Armstrong's *The Dance Maze*, a rugged rhythmic landscape of uncompromising modernism that prepared the ground for the contemplation of Vassily Lopatin's *Ode to Grouse*.

Ball created an atmosphere of quiet intimacy in the large performance space and effectively prepared his audience for the acoustic folk music of Martin Carthy, Chris Wood and Roger Wilson. This trio first worked together seven years ago, but has only recently reassembled, bringing Carthy's rich knowledge of traditional song into conjunction with Wilson and Wood's exploration of the folk and morris dance instrumental repertoire.

Their songs flow seamlessly from one to another, and lyrics about long-ago arranged marriages, drowning miller's daughters and giblets, all decked out in minor keys, maintained the rapport between performer and audience established by Ball despite a radical difference in style.

Their songs flow seamlessly from one to another, and lyrics about long-ago arranged marriages, drowning miller's daughters and giblets, all decked out in minor keys, maintained the rapport between performer and audience established by Ball despite a radical difference in style.

Then, after a bass solo of great skill and complexity, there was a dramatic change. The brass and reeds intoned like a gospel choir. Skip Huddington preached a trumpet solo over the top, before the horns fell back and Tippett produced a magnificent piano solo, mixing techniques, but never losing the gospel feeling.

The suite marks Dunmall's arrival as a band leader and composer in his own right, and the platform of the Rare Music Club emphasised his connections to a wide range of currents in contemporary music.

ALYN SHIPTON

## POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair salutes the artist recently known as duff on his three-hour-long return to superstar form

**P**RINCE *Emancipation* (NPG/EMI 7243 8 549620; three CDs £19.99)

HE MAY be the most prolific superstar in the history of pop, but as Prince enters a new phase of his career with his first record for EMI, his stock is at a low ebb. His previous album, *Chaos and Disorder*, a desultory kiss-off to his former record company, has sold fewer than 40,000 copies in Britain, a dismal result for an artist of his stature.

As public interest has waned, so the media has tired of pandering to the little man's identity crises and crass promotional ploys. Not the best moment then, you would think, to chance his arm with a grandiose triple CD, ominously titled *Emancipation* and promising "three hours of love, sex and liberty". Frankly, it looks as if he's been given enough rope to hang himself, with slack to spare.

But, against the odds, slack is one thing this album is not. Gone for the most part is the empty braggadocio and slapdash production that have marred his output in recent years. Instead, along with the complex horn parts, barbershop soul harmonies and multiple layers of percussive activity, there is a return to the inventive vitality that used to be taken for granted.

There are sultry, pleading ballads, such as *Soul Sanctuary* and *Saviour*; uptempo dance tracks, notably a sensational electro-funk groove called *New World*, affectionate cover versions of hits by the Stylistics (*Recha By Golly Wow*), the Deafones (*La, La Means I Love U*) and Joan Osborne (*One of Us*); and a handful of badass rap tracks, the heaviest being *Face Down*.

While musically there is little he

has not tackled before, there are some stunning moments, as on *Slave*, where he harnesses a murky drumbeat to a 1990s-style cotton-chant of "They just keep trying to break my heart". And there are signs of a growing maturity in his lyrics. *Let's Have A Baby* marks the first time he has looked beyond the mechanics to the consequences of sex and, despite the self-pitying tone of *White Mansion* and *Damned If I Do*, they are two of several songs that offer an honest reflection of events in his life, instead of the usual voyeuristic fantasies.

Although it is a lot to swallow, *Emancipation* is anything but the self-indulgent mess we might have expected. Never mind the quantity, enjoy the depth.

### CHRIS REA

*La Passione* (East West 0630-16605 £13.99)

A COMPLETE departure from the adult-oriented rock for which Chris Rea is known, *La Passione* is a quaintly orchestrated film score,

which tells the semi-autobiographical tale of a young boy enchanted by the glamorous world of motor racing. Rea's guitar is left at home and his lugubrious drawl becomes a lugubrious croon, assisted by the more forceful tones of Shirley Bassey on *Shirley do you own a Ferrari?* and *Disco* "La Passione".

An album that conjures up images of grainy black-and-white movies on Sunday afternoon TV, the idea works thanks to Rea's obvious and unwavering devotion to his theme, and the refreshing lack of ironic pretensions so frequently associated with later excursions into this kind of music.

**SNOOP DOGGY DOGG** *Tha Doggfather* (Death Row/Interscope INTD-90038 £13.49)

DEDICATED "in loving memory" of rap star Tupac Shakur, shot dead in September, *Tha Doggfather* is another loathsome celebration of the black American lifestyle set to a cool, shuffling hip hop beat. Dogg delivers his

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### TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 <i>Takes Two</i> ...	... Robson & Jerome (RCA)
2 <i>Spice</i> ...	... Spice Girls (Virgin)
3 <i>Greatest Hits</i> ...	... Simply Red (East West)
4 <i>Blue is the Colour</i> ...	... Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
5 <i>Around the World — the Journey So Far</i> ...	... East 17 (London)
6 <i>A Different Beat</i> ...	... Boyzone (Polydor)
7 <i>Falling Into You</i> ...	... Caline Dion (Epic)
8 <i>Christmas Party</i> ...	... Smurfs (EMI TV)
9 <i>If We Fall in Love Tonight</i> ...	... Rod Stewart (Warner Bros)
10 <i>The Finest</i> ...	... Fine Young Cannibals (FFRR)

● To order these albums, see coupon bottom left

Walrath on this passionate but informal-sounding album reflect not only his eclectic listening — he possesses 20,000 albums ranging from Albinoni to Cage and the OJIB to Ornette — but also his experience with leaders as diverse as Ray Charles and Muhal Richard Abrams.

The sextet assembled here — New York's finest saxophonists Craig Handy and Bobby Watson, pianist Kenny Drew Jr, bassist Ray Drummond and drummer Victor Lewis — is given its head throughout and responds magnificently, with Watson in particular contributing a number of blistering alto solos.

Many of Walrath's pieces are clearly indebted, particularly in their mood and tempo changes, to those of his most famous employer, Charles Mingus. But overall this is an intensely personal album packed with gutsy, tight originals played by all concerned with great verve.

CHRIS PARKER

## Tunes off the screen

### JAZZ ALBUMS

The central duo is joined by a rhythm section for some selections, and by violinist Johnny "Ice" Taylor on the *Emmylou* pieces. But it is Sheppard's ability to conjure up haunting, evocative tenor sounds, buoyed by Lodder's facility in choosing the precise keyboard texture to showcase them, that makes this album so unequivocally listenable.

JACK WALRATH AND HARD CORPS *Journey Man!* (Evidence ECD 22150-2) The nine compositions by the American trumpeter Jack

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## CRICKET

# Simpson launches scathing attack on English game

Alan Lee finds that retirement has not mellowed the former Australia coach

**T**HE thunderstorms that assailed Brisbane yesterday might just have been Bob Simpson having his say. For the first time in a decade, a Test series in this country was about to begin without Simpson in charge of the Australia team, and he has never liked to let the moment pass quietly.

Simpson was removed from office as Australia coach after the World Cup in March. He did not want to go — indeed, he had made a detailed written case for a new contract to take him beyond the Ashes series next summer — and now, with predictably opportunist timing, he has published a provocative book.

A forthright man, ambitious and uncompromising, Simpson made enemies during his ten years as coach, and he acknowledges it without apology. His book, *The Reason Why*, is not the placatory good-natured gesture of a retired 60-year-old and none who know him would expect it to be. To those who disliked his style, his answer is blunt. "So what? My job was to help restore Australian cricket, not to win popularity contests."

He is also sharply conscious of the many who resented his undeniable triumphs. "They have publicly announced their delight at the success of the Australian team and privately seethed at the thought that Simmo might get some of the credit. Hard luck."

Simpson, a recent addition to the panel of international match referees, claims he was never given an adequate reason for his dismissal by the Australian Cricket Board; otherwise, it was time for a change. "This seems pretty shallow reasoning to me," he said, and of his replacement, Geoff Marsh, he added: "I fear that he has been handed a very demanding job two years before he is ready for it."

It is doubtful whether this offends Marsh, to whom Simpson is otherwise generous in his praise, and yet on the eve of his first home series as coach, against West Indies starting today, the new man took a step back by withdraw-

ing from regular press conferences, deliberately lowering his profile in a way that his predecessor would never willingly have done.

Humility was not a striking trait of Simpson the coach, as his book reflects. Amid the bluster of self-justification, however, there always was a sharp, analytical mind, one of the finest cricketing brains of his generation.

So when Simpson reviews the state of the English game and considers it risible, he cannot lightly be dismissed. Simpson coached Australia in five series against England and won the last four of them. He also spent two summers in

ing from regular press conferences, deliberately lowering his profile in a way that his predecessor would never willingly have done.

Humility was not a striking trait of Simpson the coach, as his book reflects. Amid the bluster of self-justification, however, there always was a sharp, analytical mind, one of the finest cricketing brains of his generation.

He is equally scathing when he turns his sights from administrators to players. "I don't think the attitude of many county professionals does the game any favours ... a high percentage of players at county level are not very good. And worse than that: they show precious little evidence of wanting to be."

Too many cricketers are content with doing the minimum, scoring just enough runs or taking enough wickets to make sure they get a renewed contract, without any real desire to improve. Too many players accept the good life of county cricket without really stretching themselves. That attitude is going to be hard to change."

Then, intriguingly, Simpson credits this complacency to the exploits of Ian Botham. "As long as Botham could work miracles, nobody looked for any deeper flaws. And in that respect — and with no disrespect to a player I admire immensely — Botham was bad for English cricket," he says.

It is a withering denunciation of the English game, from a man who has never done other than speak his mind. Reluctant retirement has plainly not mellowed him.



Mohammad Wasim surveys the damage after being bowled by Doull yesterday

Simpson: outspoken

county cricket at Leicestershire and, true to form, attracted some severely mixed reactions.

"There was plenty of opposition to my attitude and methods," he recalls. James Whitaker, a hero in Leicestershire after leading the county to the championship last summer, does not escape criticism, having complained that the Australian coach "wanted us all to be Test cricketers."

Simpson is scornful. "Well, fancy that. Isn't that what everyone is supposed to aspire to? I am probably meant that I wanted them all to work at their game as hard as Test cricketers. And I did," he says.

It is doubtful whether this offends Marsh, to whom Simpson is otherwise generous in his praise, and yet on the eve of his first home series as coach, against West Indies starting today, the new man took a step back by withdraw-

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

**B**Y ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
For the next few Refreshers I'm going to be talking about signalling. Groucho Marx's instruction to partners who liked his lead was 'don't bother to signal, just nod your head and smile'. I'm afraid that one is no longer available in polite company. Nowadays the defenders tell one another about their hands by different patterns of card-play. I recommend the following method:

1) On partner's lead, or when discarding, you should show your 'attitude' to the suit. A high card says you like that suit; a low card is discouraging.

2) When the declarer is playing a suit, a high card in that suit says you have an even number, and a low card an odd number of the suit.

Note that what is a 'high' card can be unclear. In many situations, the only way you can tell your partner has played a high card is when he subsequently follows with a lower card, and vice versa.

Some examples of attitude signals: you are East, defending a No-trump contract.

2 low (Q 9 4).  
      (Q 9 4)

The declarer plays the ace from dummy. What card do you play? The correct card from (i) is the nine. All it says is 'partner I like the lead'. But from (ii) you play the three — you want to warn your partner you have no help in the suit.

3 low  
      (K 10 7)  
      (A K Q 10)

      7 4  
      A 9 8 7  
      A 9 8 2  
      6 5

You are defending Six Spades. Your partner leads the queen of spades and declarer plays ace, king and another spade, your partner winning the third round. What do you discard?

Declarer is likely to take the rest of the tricks unless your partner switches to diamonds now. So you discard the nine of diamonds. But in the same position make your hand:

7 4 ♦ 10 9 8 2 ♠ A 9 8 2 ♠ 6 5

Now if you throw the five of diamonds an unobservant partner may think that was a 'low' diamond. Of course, he should work out that the four, three and two are missing, but partners can be lazy that way. Better is to throw the two of hearts, which even the most obtuse partner will recognise as discouraging in hearts and therefore asking him to play diamonds.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WALLAROO

- a. A large kangaroo
- b. An Australian hairy...
- c. An ejaculation of surprise

VALLI

- a. A large milkjug
- b. The female wigeon
- c. An admiring fan

WHEWER

Answers on page 50

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Soviet Juggernaut

I conclude this week long review of the great tournaments of chess history with a look at the 1948 Hague/Moscow World Championship match tournament. This established the Soviet citizen Mikhail Botvinnik as the new world champion, after the previous incumbent, the great Russian Alexander Alekhine had died in 1946, still in possession of the title.

Botvinnik's victory here heralded an unbroken succession of Soviet champions until 1972, when Bobby Fischer defeated Boris Spassky at Reykjavik. Botvinnik's strengths included from discipline, deep pre-game preparation and also training for the physical hazards one might encounter across the chessboard. Though now banned in important competitions, smoking in 1948 was still quite permissible during the game. Botvinnik, who detested tobacco, therefore arranged pre-tournament training sessions with the Soviet grandmaster and nicotine addict Ragozin. Ragozin's specific brief was to chain smoke during the games and ensure that the smoke was blown directly in Botvinnik's direction.

Botvinnik duly overwhelmed his opposition, which included Smyslov, Keres and Reshevsky. Here is how he bowled over Max Euwe, who was world champion himself from 1935 to 1937.

White: Mikhail Botvinnik  
Black: Max Euwe  
Hague/Moscow 1948

Diagram of final position

### Championship 1948 Semi-Slav Defence

1 d4 d5  
2 Nf3 Nf6  
3 c4 e6  
4 Nc3 d4  
5 Nf3 Nc6  
6 e3 Nf6  
7 Bf4 Bf5  
8 e4 Nc6  
9 Nc3 Bg4  
10 Nf3 Bf5  
11 Nc3 Nc6  
12 e5 Nf6  
13 Bg5 Bf5  
14 d5 Nc6  
15 Nf3 Bf5  
16 Nc3 Nc6  
17 Rf1 Nf6  
18 Nf3 Bf5  
19 Nc3 Nc6  
20 Rf1 Nf6  
21 Nf3 Bf5  
22 Nc3 Nc6  
23 Rf1 Nf6  
24 Nf3 Bf5  
25 Nc3 Nc6  
26 Rf1 Nf6  
27 Nf3 Bf5  
28 Nc3 Nc6  
29 Rf1 Nf6  
30 Qd2 Nf6  
31 Nf3 Bf5  
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## RUGBY UNION

# Longer league life may deny players best of both codes

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT BEGAN with the gasps that went around Twickenham. To rugby league followers there for the Middlesex Sevens, it was no more than they expected or were used to seeing from Wigan. Rugby union glimpsed the future in Henry Paul, Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Martin Offiah and most formidably, Va'aiga Tuigamala, who trampled over his now fellow Wasps in the final.

The possibilities seen by several English club coaches that day last May have sometimes been thrillingly realised in the past two months. It speaks volumes for the craft and professionalism in the craft and professionalism in the craft and the Paul brothers, Henry and Robbie, have made such an impact on a foreign field. Now, those dabbling in both codes are apparently faced with a choice.

Rugby league's flaw this year was a shortage of fixtures. That problem is addressed by a season starting with the Challenge Cup next February and ending in mid-November with the last of the touring Australians' three matches against Great Britain. It effectively closes the window of opportunity on league players taking a busmen's holiday in union, unless they desire a permanent switch.

Nigel Melville, Wasps' director of rugby, believes indi-



Robinson: at crossroads

viduals must eventually commit themselves to one game. "Tuigamala is contracted to Wigan for now, but I'd be lying if I said we wouldn't want him permanently," he said. "The league players return to their clubs in January and the extended Super League will limit their chances in union next season. When they come out of contract, it's another matter."

Tuigamala has rediscovered his love of union after his recent Western Samoa debut, but many of the talents he now has owe to league and he is reluctant to give up his adopted game. As much as Robbie Paul, too, is enjoying his well-paid stint at Harlequins away from Bradford Bulls, his presence this week in Sydney at the launch of the ambitious 22-team world rugby league club championship, to be held

between June and October next year, indicated where his priorities lie.

Not that Paul would necessarily refuse another spell in union. "Although I'd be happy to return to Bradford, it is not satisfying leaving a job half done," he said. "It's been an eye-opener playing union for the first time when the game is exploding. If the chance arrived again, I'd take it, but league is the game I grew up with and the world club championship is the chance to take league to a new dimension."

For most of the 70 players who have crossed to union in the past year, money has been the key factor.

The first 12 months' money of the five-year £87 million Super League contract went on keeping many league clubs afloat, but more efficient management at clubs and the prospect of real wealth in the later stages of the world club tournament should help to curb the union drift.

At Wigan — where the prospect of £7 million being pumped into the financially-troubled club is held out by the takeover bid of Dave Whelan, owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club — Paul Harrison, the club spokesman, said:

"Union clubs competing for players when contracts expire will be no different from competition from other league clubs. As usual, reports of

rugby league's demise are premature."

League, however, is too small to withstand successfully the loss of even a handful of its leading combatants. Britain's recent 3-0 series defeat in New Zealand, where Connolly and Robinson were sorely missed, proved that. It is doubtful whether Harlequins and Bath could buy out their £1 million contracts with the Australian Rugby League.

The Super League might, knowing their importance to the Britain side.

There is a sense, too, that Bath overplayed the rugby league hand. Robinson and Henry Paul appeared less than comfortable in the raw, combative arena at Cardiff in the Heineken Cup. In Harlequins' recent defeat by Sale, Connolly missed the lines of running completely, but all are learning and Dick Best, Harlequins' director of rugby, is convinced those doubling up in union would, in time, make international level.

Wales beat Singapore 77-0,

with all seven players scoring tries, and then beat a strong and spirited Zimbabwe side 31-14.

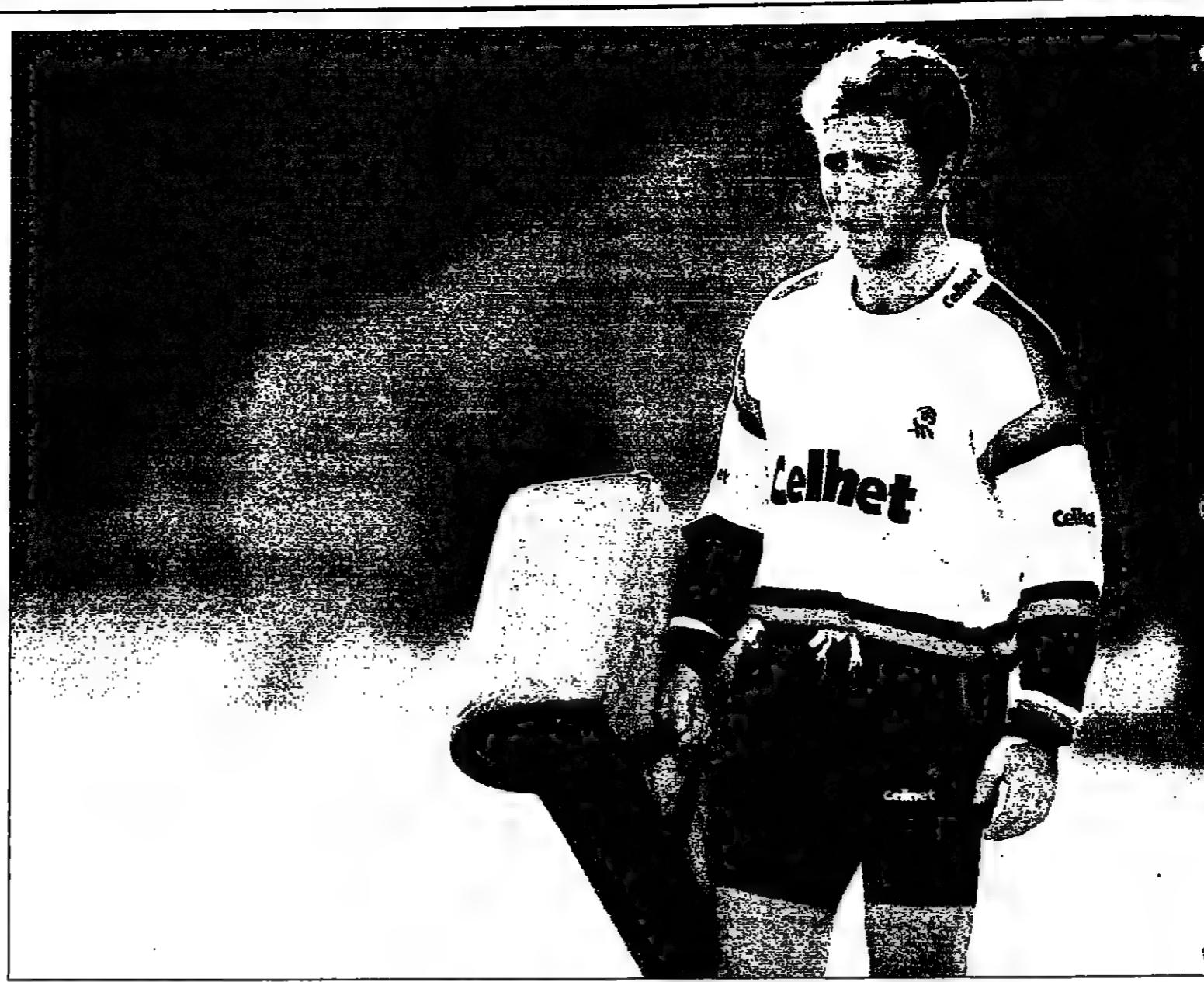
SCOTLAND BARBARIANS v Barbarians, Huddersfield, Sunday: C. Cullen, J. Lomu, A. Ieremia, L. Stevens, G. Osborne; C. Spencer, J. Marshall, M. Allen, S. Fitzpatrick, G. Brown, D. Mills, H. Brooke, G. Taylor, A. Brown, T. Randall

plays at stand-off half ahead of Andrew Meirants. Christian Cullen, the discovery of 1996, plays at full back.

Scotland and Wales got their World Cup Sevens qualifying campaigns off to flying starts with 13-try victories on the opening day of the tournament in Dubai yesterday. James Craig helped himself to 31 points, with five tries and three conversions, while Scott Nicol scored 25 through a hat-trick of tries and five conversions as the Scots crushed Zambia 87-0 in their opening pool E match.

Wales beat Singapore 77-0, with all seven players scoring tries, and then beat a strong and spirited Zimbabwe side 31-14.

"I'm a great student of league and we'll be watching the Super League closely in terms of possible further deals," Best said.



De Glanville is bringing a strong track record and a positive attitude to his new role as England captain. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## De Glanville takes first steps forward

David Hands talks to a new England captain ready to put the past behind him but equally keen not to look too far ahead

**H**ow do you follow a world record-holder? Where are the guidelines on how to begin a new sporting era? How long will it be before Will Carling's England becomes part of the history of rugby union history and Phil de Glanville's England has stamped its own authority on the sport?

Not that de Glanville will have been worrying about history during the few short days since November 4, when he found that he was to follow Carling as captain of England. The present has filled his time, the personal adjustment from being just another squad member to its focal point, at a time when both the squad and the way it seeks to play the game are changing fundamentally.

When the Bath captain says that he is looking no further than England's game against Italy at Twickenham tomorrow, the meeting with the New Zealand Barbarians a week later and the December 14 encounter with Argentina, one sympathises. For, in these three games, he will begin to come to terms with his new role and the demands that England and its rugby public place upon him. When Carling began his

59-match stewardship eight years ago, he was the fifth man to lead England that calendar year and the sport was in a state of flux. He hands over to de Glanville a perception of English rugby enhanced beyond recognition by success, by professionalism and — the downside — the ill that play-for-pay has brought in its wake. Apart from anything else de Glanville's England has now to compensate for the inadequacies of administrators by playing so well as to make the public forget the quarrels and political strife that have marred this season.

All of these arguments will have run through Jack Rowell's mind before the national coach made his decision, back in September. He wanted a maturity, in individual and playing terms, that Lawrence Dallaglio perhaps lacked. Dallaglio is, after all, one of the new wave. Whereas Carling, at 22, had old sweats such as Peter Winterbottom, Mike Teague, Rob Andrew, Rory Underwood, Wade Dooley and

Paul Ackford to proffer advice, de Glanville is surrounded by youngsters with the exceptions of the two multi-capped men, Carling and Jason Leonard.

De Glanville, at 28, has

established a strong track

record of his own, a mind

honed at the universities of

Durham and Oxford, a busi-

ness career as a marketing

consultant that he steadfastly

refuses to relinquish for the

dubious pleasures of full-

time sport, a playing career

hardened in the fire of Bath

rugby at its apogee.

Above all, he knows

Rowell from his days

as Bath's coach. "If

things need to be said to Jack,

I won't hesitate to say them,"

de Glanville says with a glint

in his eye. "I know he won't

hesitate to say them to me."

He acknowledges how life

will change, not only for

himself but for Yolandia, his

wife, whom he met while at

Durham. She was not aware

of him as a rugby player

then; she is now, with media

crews camped out on the

road to glean words of wisdom from the latest occupant of a high-profile job. "We will keep our feet firmly on the ground," de Glanville promises, and it must be hoped, in the whirligig world of international sport, that he can.

He is in no doubt that leadership has to be a positive quality. "There must be a good empathy with the other players, but getting the balance right between being the captain and being part of the squad is difficult, particularly when you have come out of the squad to occupy the new role. I'll bring a positive attitude to the way we want to play the game and the way the squad environment develops.

"We are here first and foremost to win, secondly to enjoy ourselves. The balance, in the psychology of the

squad, is very important. But

when the going gets tough, I

hope I won't revert to what

have become known as 'traditional' English methods.

Space and time are at a premium in international

rugby, which makes it difficult to play the kind of rugby we are aiming for, but players are developing the necessary mental and physical skills through the way the majority of their clubs have been playing this season.

"You need 15 players all ready to play the same kind of game and one of the most refreshing aspects of this season has been the consistency of approach by players from different clubs.

The build-up has already changed from Will's era, the different environment we find at Bisham Abbey, the new warm-up routines, but we are finding out what's right for this squad and not just seeking change for its own sake.

"We want a balanced game that will keep the opposition guessing. We are always going to play with options, not just running the ball all the time; kicking is part of the game too. But our general philosophy is to keep the ball in hand, it will take time to get our execution right and we would not pretend to be at the top of the world game right now — but we aspire to be there."

## Summit talks can bring greater union to Europe

**N**ext Monday a meeting is to take place in Dublin to determine the future of European rugby fixtures. The success of the Heineken Cup this season has ensured that its future is guaranteed. Whether the present format remains — the number of clubs, the complement of matches, when they are to be played and so on — is a matter for debate. What is certain is that this tournament will provide the main focus of the season for English, French and Welsh clubs, the Scottish districts and Irish provinces.

Present at this meeting will be the five directors of the European Rugby Cup (ERC) committee, as well as five other members who will represent the clubs, districts and provinces of the five nations where difficulties have arisen. It is hoped that the many conflicts and divergent interests that marred the competition last year, and which have continued in other forms and by other means this season, will receive attention. The unions and clubs must begin to unite in the interest of the game as a whole. Clearly, there are too many arguments and too many matches at present.

If the European tournament came

alive here last weekend, it has been so from the beginning in France. For Marcel Martin, France's representative on the ERC, this response has been particularly satisfying. His vision now is that this feeling should be shared among others in Europe.

"It is important that the unions, clubs and provinces and so on should come together," he said. "There are a lot of fixtures which conflict with one another at the moment. We must make rugby a sport in Europe which is saleable, profitable and of the style which will get the maximum number of people watching and playing."

A 17-point questionnaire has been circulated to all those attending the meeting. What, for example, is a sustainable number of matches? And over how many weekends? How many fixtures should be at home? With how many matches would the clubs be happy, from the playing point of view as well as financial viability?

The questions go beyond club fixtures, domestic and European, to include international matches before and after Christmas. These must dovetail together.

"There is a fabric that needs to be kept together not torn apart. But the

base must not be congested," Martin, who will contest the presidency of the French federation next month, said. "We need to agree on the proper form of the season in order that we know what we can offer television companies and the sponsors. There must be a coherent shape to rugby in Europe and not for each country to determine selfishly for itself.

"But the base must remain large. It is fundamental that the appeal must not only be to the few clubs. Money cannot all go to a small number of rich clubs. Such a concentration would not ultimately be to the benefit of rugby. This is why it is important to maintain a second tier of competition. Of course, television and sponsors are interested largely in the main event. We must not ignore the rest, however. The profits may not be shared equally, but nor must all the money go into the pockets of the few; there is a shared responsibility. The culture of rugby will be richer for it.

"We must not allow what happened to rugby to happen to rugby union. Rugby league remains limited to a small band of clubs in a very small number of countries. Rugby union has a duty to get as many players as possible and as many people watching as possible.

"We must also be concerned that there should be a sense of continuity. What if, for example, Harlequins or Leinster or any other team in the Heineken Cup did not qualify next year? Do they drop out altogether? What incentive should they have to play in the autumn? Having experienced European rugby one year, their motivation would be very low without it. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Garry Scholfield, the former Leeds and Great Britain stand-off half, last night received the Rugby League Writers' Association merit award for services to the game.

"We need to be aware also of the emerging nations. If the Heineken tournament is dominated by teams from the five nations, as it is at the moment, it does not mean that it should always remain like this.

"When France began playing the other four countries in the early days, they were always beaten by large scores. This is clearly not the case any more. The French game was able to develop very quickly because of their continued involvement. Therefore, we should consider other countries in the rest of Europe.

"We should think of those who are taking their first steps in rugby's broad community, like Spain and Germany. Perhaps we should consider playing them in the second competition. In that way, we might be able to give them an incentive and to push the game forward. That is the kind of expansion we should aim for."

"There should always be a channel between the top and small clubs, between the major countries and the emerging ones. Our view, clubs and unions, of what the possibilities are should not be constrained and narrow. If we accept this interweaving of shared interests, then the future of rugby is very exciting."

RUGBY LEAGUE: LEEDS CLUBS SET UP DEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL WING

### Sterling wanted in player-share agreement

PAUL STERLING, a wing in both codes, is about to follow Martin Offiah at London Broncos and Bedford in becoming only the second jointly-owned rugby league and rugby union player in a combined deal by the Leeds league and union clubs, who now share the Headingley ground (Christopher Irvine writes).

The player-share arrangement is the first of its kind since the marriage of convenience between the two clubs ten months ago. "There will be a cash

assistance provided by Leeds RU," Gary Hetherington, the Leeds league chief executive, said. "It was ourselves who made the approach to Hull (where Sterling is on the transfer list at £100,000). The arrangement is that his union does not overlap with the league."

Sterling, 30, a late starter in both sports, joined Hull from Bradford and Bingley rugby union club in 1993. He made one appearance for his former union side this season before Hull demanded a fee.

Last year he represented Great Britain,

in the rugby league world sevens in Sydney. Sterling is expected to join Leeds, from Hull, in exchange for Matthew Schultz, a forward.

Leeds yesterday announced a five-figure sponsorship deal with the fast-food chain, McDonald's, for the family stand and junior supporters' club.

Garry Scholfield, the former Leeds and Great Britain stand-off half, last night received the Rugby League Writers' Association merit award for services to the game.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

جذب اصحاب الاموال



GOLF: WAY AND McLEAN SAMPLE PERILS OF EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING EVENT AS THEY SEEK TO RE-ESTABLISH CAREERS

## Prodigies reunited at school of hard knocks

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN SAN ROQUE

PAUL WAY and Mike McLean were two names to watch in British junior golf in the late Seventies. They were straight out of the Bash Street Kids with mischief in their eyes and cheeks as rosy as Kentish apples. Irreverent and cocky, they brought fame to the Hugh Christie School in Tonbridge.

Not that either was a keen student — one got into trouble for practising on the school playing fields — but it did not matter. Golf was going to be their livelihood, that much was certain. They were prodigies.

Way was the cockier of the two, the more outspoken, the one who did everything at 100mph. He had all the confidence of youth. Alex Hay, the professional at Woburn and BBC commentator, once said that Way swung the club more naturally than anyone he had seen. Way was the powerful one; McLean, always a short hitter, the more subtle. Way tried to overpower courses, McLean to outwit them.

Born within three weeks of one another in 1963, they turned professional in 1981. It took McLean only two years to win a tournament, and that year, Way, who had been a Walker Cup player at 18, became the second youngest Ryder Cup player for Europe.

## Woods is lost as Norman breezes round

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SYDNEY

GREG NORMAN headed off for a round with Bill Clinton yesterday afternoon, secure in the knowledge that the score he had posted in the morning, in the first round of the Australian Open at The Australian Club here, would be hard to beat. Sure enough, Norman's 67, five under par, was too good for the rest of the field, including Tiger Woods, who needed a birdie on the last hole to break 80 and was tied in 92nd place out of 126.

He was not alone, however. On a day when the breeze swirled every which way and only ten players broke par, Craig Parry and David Frost, both well-fancied, also had 70s. Klas Eriksson, a Swede who thinks Australian courses are wonderful, came closest to Norman, one shot behind. Robert Stephens, of Victoria, was third, on 69, with Gary Evans and David Howell, of England, in the group on 70.

Howell, 21, who is in his first year as a professional, started with an eagle three, double-bogeyed the short second, came back with four birdies and then dropped two shots in the last three holes. He is one of those rare beings to achieve something in golf that Woods now never will — he was on a winning Walker Cup team, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland side that beat the United States, Woods included, at Royal Portrush last year.

Yesterday, after a frustrating round, Woods said: "It was a rough day. My good shots turned out bad and my bad shots turned out horrible. I felt my decision-making was pretty good but I just couldn't execute the shots. I was out of

rhythm. I've had a lot of days like that — more than I would like — but it's part of the game. I tried my heart out on each and every shot."

Norman, relaxed and affable, was more like his old self, unlike the sulky person who won the championship last year. Convinced that his collapse at the Masters in April was mechanical rather than mental, Norman has been working on a couple of swing changes with David Leadbetter. "They're very, very minor, but they feel huge to me," he said, "and I feel naked out there. Probably nobody else notices the difference, but it feels very, very strange and difficult to me."

This being the Australian Open and Woods being here, Norman, the competitor, forgot about swing changes and had his best thinking day on the golf course for some months. "I focused on my shots, not my swing," he said afterwards. He did not lose concentration after 13 or 14 holes, as he admitted he had been doing, and six birdies in all, with four in the five holes from the 11th, confirmed that the Shark was sharp.

Later, at the New South Wales club, where the security men had been preparing for the presidential visit for a couple of weeks, the President's opening drive was enough for Norman to send back to the pro's shop for more Maxfils.

Later, however, Norman was complimentary of his playing partner. "Give me 60 days and I'd have him breaking 80 every day. He has a lot of talent and knows about the game," he said.

Customs and Excise have a narrow but potentially still vital advantage over ZET

FROM MEL WEBB  
IN LA MANO

IT WAS a fair cop: the forces of good had everybody bang to rights. The men from the Customs and Excise are used to making big-time arrests, and four of their number demonstrated their ability to feel collars yesterday when they moved in on the South course here and in one smooth operation laid one collective hand on a piece of crystalware with a street value of several thousand pounds.

The classy glass from Wtherford Crystal is on offer to the national winners of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, and no-

body did better than the National Investigation Service of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, who ended the first day of the competition with a four-point lead.

The Duty men — John Nicholson, Colin Tennant, Colin Shaw and Malcolm Woodall — could be proud of their Stableford points total of 85 (or 99,875 including VAT). Admittedly, it was a perfect day for golf, but the course is not easy, even when the conditions are as benign as they were here.

It is a fair golf course, but a tough one — those looking for easy conquests might as well push off somewhere down the costa where the sporting life is a little less taxing and where, no doubt, some of the Customs men's former clients are presently domiciled.

Customs and Excise have a narrow but potentially still vital advantage over ZET

Marchbank, 38, the Scottish professional champion, and others they had never set eyes on before. "This is the second time I've been here," Marchbank, who competed on the Tour every year from 1979 to 1995, said. "I came last year

Leading scores 49

and didn't make it. If I don't make it this year, I shall definitely not be back again. I've had enough. I shall have to find something else to do."

McLean began well. He birdied two holes going out, but came home in a nervous 39 for a 73, six strokes behind Matthew Goggin, of Austra-

lia, the lowest scorer at San Roque. "That typified the way I have played all year," McLean said. "I just cannot be as aggressive as I ought to be and then I start to steer the ball from the tee. When I do that, I miss fairways."

His visor had the word "Ambiance" printed on it. "It's the name of a neighbour's shirt company," McLean explained. "The neighbour sponsors me. He has a son who has muscular dystrophy and is in a wheelchair, and I spend a lot of time with him. He's great. He plays golf from his wheelchair. When I look at him, I wonder: 'Why do I worry about myself?'

Way, meanwhile, had had a nightmare of a round, in

keeping with a season in which he missed the cut in 20 out of 26 events. Three strokes were squandered on the 8th, when his drive bounced on a cart-path and was never seen again, and when he left a putt short on the 10th, he swore in a way that would have earned him a fine for an audible obscenity had he been playing tennis. Was this really the man who had won the Dutch Open in 1982, the PGA championship in 1985 and the European Open in 1987?

There is a saying on the Tour that you cannot win a tournament on the first day, but you can lose it. After an 81, the highest of the day at San Roque, Way has surely lost all chance of continuing after the

72-hole cut. "I played dreadful," Way said, indicating that 15 years on the circuit has indoctrinated him in Tour speak. "This is ridiculous, desperate stuff. I just don't know what's going on."

"I didn't enjoy that out there today," McLean said. "I know what the problem is with me. I have seen too many bad shots over the years and I worry about when one is going to come. Then I start steering the ball around and then I'm in trouble."

Way and McLean are only

33, the same age as Montgomerie and seven years younger than Constantino Rocca. They are worlds away from where they had once been. What

price fame now?

FOOTBALL  
Unhappy  
Warnock  
states  
his case

BY DAVID POWELL

NEIL WARNOCK, the Plymouth Argyle manager, has taken the bold and unusual step of issuing a prepared statement to take his chairman to task over his running of the club. So troubled is Warnock, who led his team to promotion last season, that his document runs to 900 words.

Warnock stormed out of the Nationwide League second division home match with Chesterfield on Tuesday night before the final whistle, with Plymouth 3-0 down. "I went into the match against Chesterfield at my lowest ebb and told Mick Jones [his assistant] that mentally I was burnt out and now it was affecting my health," Warnock said in his statement, which he released on Wednesday night. "In fact, I felt so bad I walked out ten minutes before the end because I had had enough."

The manager was anxious yesterday to ensure that this should not be interpreted as a case similar to that of Steve Coppell. Coppell, quit Manchester City, citing stress but Warnock said yesterday that it was not that he could not take the pressure, but that he was "mentally fed up" at what he regarded as a lack of support from Dan McCauley, the Plymouth chairman.

"It [the club] is in crisis," Warnock's statement read. The manager complains of his frustration at failing to secure a budget and an impending maximum wage and relocation structure that, he suggests, would restrict him to non-League signings.

Warnock added yesterday that: "If he [the chairman] does not want the club to go forward, he has got the wrong manager. If things are not resolved, and this cannot go on much longer, it is sensible me carrying on."

Warnock said he was not worried how the chairman might react to his statement. "The worst thing that could happen is that I get the sack," Warnock said. "I thought: 'What have I got to lose?'

Meanwhile, mayhem ensued by the 18th green when David Lait, a member of the ZET team, put his ball high in a palm tree alongside the putting surface. Lait was told before he could take a penalty drop, and in the end it was left to Scott Moffat, one of the Challenge support team, to chip up the tree and knock Lait's ball down.

It involved ladders, metal rods and, finally, a golf club before the ball was dislodged. "It's not mine," Lait said with a broad grin. And the truly amazing thing is that somebody believed him.

Brilliant  
Becker  
too muc  
Samp

## RESULTS

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Today's Eurostar token is on page 39

CHANGING TIMES

## Telford championships offer worthy stage

From Mr John Cuffley

vides, especially in the centre court used for the main matches. Nobody there needs to look at the passing scene, while players, officials and spectators do not want the distraction of shadows or bright patches of sunlight on court due to changing conditions outside.

As for enthusiasm, most players showed great commitment and effort, though a few of up-and-coming players the opportunity to have a go at the leading British performers in serious competition, thereby not only improving their skills and experience but also, in some cases, beating them. That is the way to develop new champions.

The spectators were particularly tolerant of the temper tantrums shown at times by one or two players, some of whom progressed to the later rounds. Some should have been old enough to know better.

of the hole. Before he putted, the force of the wind rolled the flagstick across the green and hit the ball. There was reportedly much amusement and no little consternation as to the penalty (if any) involved.

The decision taken by Harry was a two-stroke penalty, which, with the nature of the weather and the scoring, was all fairly academic, but I've often wondered what the Royal and Ancient's ruling would have been as the ball did not strike the flagstick, but the flagstick struck the ball.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN S. WELLS,  
33 Mosside Drive,  
Portlethen, Aberdeen.

## Unhappy memories for Astle

From Mr John Moynihan

er. As a number of school parties attended during the week for coaching, as well as to see quality tennis, I felt it unfortunate that a small minority of players let themselves down by unseemly scrapping over big points.

If some of the higher-ranked players suffered from championship torpor, having played an exhausting programme through the summer, that is perhaps the time when they should be topped from their perches by youthful successors. That, after all, is the law of the jungle, which is reflected in international sport.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN CUFFLEY,  
6 The Highways,  
Upper Cound,  
Shropshire.

From Mr C. J. F. Pavey

Sir, When John Woodcock writes "The pity is that he [Mike Brearley] never played a Test match under Bradman," he refers to Test matches. Here are a couple of extracts from Wisden on the 1976 season: "Middlesex won by four wickets, inflicting on West Indies the first defeat of their tour. The badly understrength Middlesex team performed wonders..." and "T. N. Pearce's XI won by two wickets. This second defeat of the tour for the West Indies followed that by Middlesex at Lord's early in August and as eight Middlesex players were in Pearce's XI, it was another personal triumph for Brearley."

That Brearley never led England against West Indies is a matter of wide regret.

Yours truly,  
C. J. F. PAVEY,  
Cloud Rift, 35 The Avenue,  
Camberley, Surrey.

## Unhappy motto

From Mr David J. Watkin

Sir, Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley's letter (November 15), discussing the use of Latin mottoes by professional football clubs, prompts me to share with your readers perhaps the only example of their use by football supporters themselves:

The West Bromwich Albion fanzone (Groovy Dick) has adopted a motto which is particularly appropriate to our club and, I'm sure, to many others. Under a shield, with a distinctly unhappy version of the club's traditional thistle, is the maxim *Semper te fallam* [sic] (They always let you down!).

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID J. WATKIN,  
45 Denleigh Road,  
Kingswinford,  
West Midlands.

## BASKETBALL

## BOXING

## FOOTBALL

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

## TENNIS

# Brilliance of Becker is too much for Sampras

FROM DAVID MILLER IN HANOVER

IN A little more than two hours of glorious tennis, Boris Becker, the Australian Open champion who turns 29 today, defeated Pete Sampras, the US Open champion, in the round-robin stage of the world championship of the Association of Tennis Professionals. The two sets contained a torrent of brilliant shots by both men, adversity being instantly met with counter-attack. Sampras had his chances to have won either set, and not just in the first break.

On a day that began with Andre Agassi, who has pulled out of the rest of the tournament because of illness, being fined five per cent of his tour earnings for the year — some £35,000 and excluding grand-slam event winnings, which for him has not been much — Becker and Sampras brought adventure, courage, excellence and dignity. Agassi's fine was for failing to appear at the draw on Monday, rather than playing like a dunce against Sampras on Wednesday.

After his straight-set victory against Yevgeny Kafelnikov on the opening day, Becker is assured of his place in the semi-finals tomorrow, though it is worth noting that on the four occasions that he and Sampras have previously met in the round-

robin stage, the loser has gone on to win the final.

These were the best two consecutive sets I have seen this year. After Becker's five-set victory over Sampras in the final in Stuttgart three weeks ago, Sampras knew well enough beforehand that he would again be confronting both Becker and a boisterous home crowd. Yet the 15,000 spectators in the exhibition hall were predominantly as sporting as the contestants.

Only towards the finish, and especially on the two match points, did Sampras become irritated by one or two bouts of bias. When, during the exciting final set, a few spectators cheered a first-service fault, the bulk of the audience had whistled disapprovingly.

It soon became evident that this match was to be something special. The second, third and fourth games ran to a total of eight deuces and 34 points, including these break points, four of them Sampras', and none of them secured.

The first conspicuous unforced error did not arrive until the 28th point of the match, as Becker tenaciously, and successfully, fought to hold his serve for 2-2. With an open court at 40-0, he put a forehand volley at the net just beyond the baseline.

The other teams in the blue group of the first division are Poland, who Britain play tomorrow, and Spain, their opponents on Sunday, who are favourites to win the group and promotion. The Britain team consists of Sam Smith, Rachel violet, Clare Wood and Megan Miller.

The team that finishes second in the group will remain in the first division, while the two teams in third and fourth places will be relegated to the second.

Steffi Graf, who pulled out of the final in Philadelphia last week, Conchita Martinez, who lost in the

first round of the same tournament, and Monica Seles, who retired injured here on Tuesday, have all complained that they are too tired to play their best all year round.

Certainly, Martinez was not at her best but was good enough to defeat Judith Wiesner 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, in the first round on Wednesday night.

It was not a great match. Martinez is still suffering from a virus and, to make matters worse, she wreaked a hamstring at the end of the second set. But against Wiesner she did enough. With the win in the bag, Martinez promptly announced that, ideally, she would like the players to have three months off at the end of every year.

"I think that the season is too long, we play a lot of tournaments this year, it is really too much," she said. "We are one of the few sports that doesn't have an off-season and we are fighting for that. Hopefully, one day we will get it and then we can have time to recover from our injuries."

Her compatriot, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, is only angling for a two-month break but is still adding her



Becker delivers another ace during his memorable victory over Sampras in straight sets yesterday

## Martinez makes break point

FROM ALEX RAMSAY  
IN NEW YORK

TENNIS players are a strange breed. The pampered few can, and will, complain about absolutely anything. This week at the Chase Championships has been no exception, with the top players having a good old moan about how hard they have to work for their not inconsiderable pay packets.

The season is too long, there are no breaks, holidays are few and far between — it is a tough life as a millionaire tennis player.

It is also remarkable how complaining and losing seem to go hand in hand. All those who have expressed doubts over the new ranking system, due to come into effect next year, have either lost at Madison Square Garden or come here on the back of a defeat elsewhere. The new system is designed to encourage players to play more: the more tournaments you play, the better your chances of moving up the rankings.

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first round of the same tournament, and Monica Seles, who retired injured here on Tuesday, have all complained that they are too tired to play their best all year round.

Certainly, Martinez was not at her best but was good enough to defeat Judith Wiesner 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, in the first round on Wednesday night.

It was not a great match. Martinez is still suffering from a virus and, to make matters worse, she wreaked a hamstring at the end of the second set. But against Wiesner she did enough. With the win in the bag, Martinez promptly announced that, ideally, she would like the players to have three months off at the end of every year.

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## SAILING

## Tibbs takes lead as fleet heads for Horn

By EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS TIBBS, the skipper of *Concert*, who surprised many by finishing third in the first leg of the BT Global Challenge, took the lead in the second as the fleet headed south towards Cape Horn yesterday, with a 20-knot easterly breeze pushing them along under full canvas.

This is a stage that proved decisive for the winning yacht, *Nuclear Electric*, last time round. Barring gear failure in the Southern Ocean, the chances are that the crew which gets to the Horn first will get away into new and stronger winds first, and not get caught before the finish at Wellington, New Zealand.

Four years ago, John Chittenden, then skipper of *Nuclear Electric*, made a break to the east of the pack as the fleet ran down the Brazilian coast and managed to pull out a lead of over 200 miles, which was enough to set up his overall victory. The early part of the second leg is a particularly tactical one, with the navigators and skippers having to decide whether to stay inshore or head out, as Chittenden did.

Two days after a wet and misty restart in light winds off Rio, it was not early for any dramatic moves. The yachts are closely bunched over a 50-mile front with only 14 miles between the leader and backmarker.

Adrian Donavan's *Heath Insured II*.

Tibbs, who had the best start, has managed to hold his lead for now, but he is being pressed closely by the second-placed finisher in leg one, Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, with Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, on his heels.

Richard Merrivether, on *Commercial Union*, is in fourth place while the disabled crew on *Time & Tide* are doing well to hold ninth position, two places ahead of Mike Golding, the race leader, on *Group 4*, who had one of the worst starts. Among the skippers who will be hoping for a more convincing performance this leg is Richard Tudor, who has the helm on *Nuclear Electric*.

John Walker, 44, the New Zealand world record miler and Olympic gold-medal winner, has Parkinson's disease. Walker was the first miler to run under 3min 50sec.

## IN BRIEF

### Spracklen named as women's coach

MIKE SPRACKLEN, rowing coach to Steve Redgrave when he won his Olympic gold medals in Los Angeles and Seoul, is to return from the United States to join the British coaching team for the next Olympic Games (Mike Rosewell writes). He will be the women's chief coach from January 1.

Spracklen's American eight won world championship medals each year from 1993 to 1995.

With possible lottery money still awaited, the funding of the new position comes from XP Plc, which has sponsored the rapidly-improving British women's squad for two years under the coaching of Bill Mason.

Scotland ahead

Golf: Ernie Els and Wayne Westner, revelling in water-logged conditions at the Erinvale course in Somerset West, South Africa, gave the home nation a two-stroke lead on the first day of the World Cup of Golf yesterday. The South Africans had an eight-under-par combined score of 136, ahead of Denmark. Scotland finished third on 139, thanks to scores of 69 from Paul Lawrie and 70 from Andrew Coltart.

## Hope fading

*Tenpin bowling: Gemma Burden, Britain's last hope in the Pepsi/AMF World Cup at the Dundonald Ice Bowl in Belfast, is fifth but looking resigned to losing the women's title she won last year in Brazil. In the men's singles, Paeng Nepomuceno, of the Philippines, stretched his lead to 385 pins over his nearest rival, Sam Goh, of Singapore.*

## Hearing delayed

*Athletics: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) acceded to legal pressure yesterday and delayed the arbitration hearing for the drugs case of the Australian sprinter, Dean Capobianco, who tested positive for the steroid, stanozolol, at a meeting in Holland last May.*

*John Walker, 44, the New Zealand world record miler and Olympic gold-medal winner, has Parkinson's disease. Walker was the first miler to run under 3min 50sec.*

## Snow advances

*Real tennis: Julian Snow, the British No 1, underlined his good form when he reached the semi-finals of the British Land British open championship, defeating Ruairidh Gunn for the loss of only five games. The Harbour Club professional, Lachie Deuchar, also reached the last four by coming through 6-5 in the final set against his fellow Australian, Frank Filippelli.*

## RESULTS

ROUND ROBIN: White group: G (Switzerland) 6-0, 7-6 (7-3); H (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); M (China) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); N (Germany) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); P (France) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); R (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); S (Spain) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); T (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); V (Spain) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); W (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); X (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); Y (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5); Z (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7-5).

robin stage, the loser has gone on to win the final.

These were the best two consecutive sets I have seen this year. After Becker's five-set victory over Sampras in the final in Stuttgart three weeks ago, Sampras knew well enough beforehand that he would again be confronting both Becker and a boisterous home crowd. Yet the 15,000 spectators in the exhibition hall were predominantly as sporting as the contestants.

Only towards the finish, and especially on the two match points, did Sampras become irritated by one or two bouts of bias. When, during the exciting final set, a few spectators cheered a first-service fault, the bulk of the audience had whistled disapprovingly.

It soon became evident that this match was to be something special. The second, third and fourth games ran to a total of eight deuces and 34 points, including these break points, four of them Sampras', and none of them secured.

The first conspicuous unforced error did not arrive until the 28th point of the match, as Becker tenaciously, and successfully, fought to hold his serve for 2-2. With an open court at 40-0, he put a forehand volley at the net just beyond the baseline.

The other teams in the blue group of the first division are Poland, who Britain play tomorrow, and Spain, their opponents on Sunday, who are favourites to win the group and promotion. The Britain team consists of Sam Smith, Rachel violet, Clare Wood and Megan Miller.

The team that finishes second in the group will remain in the first division, while the two teams in third and fourth places will be relegated to the second.

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# A woman's place is on the pitch, official

Harlequins rugby football club is 130 years old — so it should come as no surprise that the gentlemen of the club have pretty much perfected the sidestep by now. But still, watching them execute their clever little shuffles last night, so neatly and with such perfect timing, was a joy to behold.

Each time the makers of *Women with Balls* (Channel 4) charged, the brave Twickers chaps stood their ground... only to step elegantly out of the way at the last moment. I don't think they shout at all at rugby matches, but on the evidence of this, perhaps they should.

Watching a documentary maker miss the intended target is rarely going to be as enjoyable as it was watching Alison Millar, the director, miss here. Hard as she tried, as she charted the progress of Harlequins Ladies in their inaugural season, the men of Harlequins

stood firm. They had done their homework, they stuck to the game plan, they all remembered what happened when, Channel 4 documentary team turned up at Northwood club a couple of years ago. Once again, the game of *cherche le chauvin* was underway.

"So," said the quiet little female voice behind the camera, "what do you think of the women's game?" The big burly man with a big burly pint of beer in his hand gave it a couple of seconds thought: "Fantastic." Drat. The quiet little female voice — so sweet, innocent, so certain that sooner or later one of these hunks would play into her hands, moved on. "So, how do you think they are playing?" Dick Best, a former England coach and a very important person at Harlequins, pinched his shoulders against the Sunday morning wind: "Outstanding." He had a point — Kirstie and the gang were in the

process of putting 136 points past opposition so bad they weren't named.

And so it went on. "What do you think of Camilla playing rugby?" "Absolutely fantastic," said her proud father. "Do you think there'll ever be a female president of Harlequins?" David Brook, paused, shrugged (you know the form by now): "I think that may be pushing it a little too far... yes, ... but maybe, one day." Drat — double, double, double drat.

**O**nly a passing lunatic on Waterloo station served up what Bill McLaren would call the needful. Sam and the omnipresent Camilla (Vice-Captain, Player of the Year and runner-up in the Boots of the Year award only because of the outside assistance of a Wonderbra apparently) were handing out leaflets to publicise Ladies Day. "You should be back in the kitchens and leave

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

playing rugby to men," the commuter yelled, breaking off from his pursuit of the 6.32pm to Woking just long enough to hurl a helpful shout of "perverts" behind him. Call me old-fashioned but I don't think lunatics on Waterloo station count. Sorry.

Elsewhere, the battle between British and American sitcoms finally came up with an unexpected result. We won! What made the

victory doubly surprising was not only that the winner was *2Point4 Children* (BBC1) but that it was delivered — inexplicably — with the help of a Halloween special. Just the three weeks late. On that basis I take it we can look forward to the Christmas special some time in early February.

So ill-prepared was I for a return to ghosts, ghouls and things that go bump in the night, that it took me almost as long as the cast to realise that Mrs Crudaford next door was actually an anagram of... well, I'm sure you've worked it out already.

It was all very silly but, cheerfully for a series that occasionally looks tired, quite funny as well. Ben (Gary Olsen) had put on some Lon Chaney make-up to frighten off trick or treaters.

"Guess where I got it from?" "Princess Diana on *Panorama*," tried Bill (Belinda Lang). I love it when she gets vicious.

On the losing end of last night's transatlantic skirmish was *Third Rock from the Sun* (BBC2), a series I fear I may have been a shade too nice about when I started out a few weeks ago. Last night's episode, in which the high commander of our visiting band of aliens took up smoking, was virtually a laugh-free zone.

It would have been entirely had it not been for the presence of John Lithgow as Dickie, the head alien honcho. The jokes may be old, but Lithgow delivers them beautifully. "Dick, smoking takes ten years off your life," protested a colleague. "Yeah, but only off the end of your life... and they're crappy years anyway." I confess, I smiled at that one.

Q uits how a television series goes from the actorly preenings of Richard E. Grant, one week to the death of Veronica Guerin, the Irish investi-

gative journalist, the next, defeats me. But *The Works* (BBC2) managed it — and to quite an unexpected end for those of us on this side of the Irish Sea.

For while David Kerr's film contained little in the way of new facts (and certainly not enough to satisfy a journalist of Guerin's reputation), he quickly moved the focus away from who murdered her to the equally disturbing question of who allowed her to be murdered. Taking his lead from Guerin's brother, whose letter to *The Irish Times* first prompted this line of inquiry, Kerr gently considered the initially unthinkable — that it was partially her own fault — and the scarcely more palatable alternative — that her newspaper, *The Sunday Independent*, had not done enough to protect an inexperienced and possibly naive journalist from her own crusading passions. All round a very sobering half-hour.

## BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (25338)

7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceefax) (30071)

9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceefax) (6047735)

9.45 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (1174342)

9.45 KILROY Topical discussion series chaired by Robert Kilroy-Silk (s) (8707616)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (32326)

11.00 NEWS (Ceefax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (2500029)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer magazine (s) (417548)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE Chat show hosted by Carol Smillie (s) (854700)

12.00 NEWS (Ceefax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (2500029)

12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES Heave and Curve try out for revenge when they are cheated (s) (5560176)

12.25 THE WEATHER SHOW The team provide personal forecasts in aid of Children in Need (5181792)

1.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (13358)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (14119385)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (24020589)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF With the Times columnist Alan Curn and Sandi Toksvig (s) (7261)

2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (s) (826)

3.00 INCOGNITO (s) (5396)

3.20 THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (5877938) 3.35 Deer, Mr. Barker (3467627) The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (5517009) 4.35 Grange Hill (1758803) 5.00 Newsworld (Ceefax) (5106151) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (2252919)

5.15 NEIGHBOURS (s) (709454)

6.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (735)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (777)

7.00 CHILDREN IN NEED Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin present the annual fundraising extravaganza (Ceefax) (s) (8377)

7.30 REGIONAL CHILDREN IN NEED PROGRAMMES (52267)

7.40 CHILDREN IN NEED Esther Rantzen showcases five of Britain's most talented children and Mark Owen gives a special performance of his first solo single, *Child* (Ceefax) (278667)

8.00 NEWS (Ceefax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4342)

8.30 CHILDREN IN NEED The fundraising continues as Barry Manilow files in for a special appearance. Also, comedy mayhem from the cast of *The British Empire* (Ceefax) (2270551)

11.25 REGIONAL CHILDREN IN NEED PROGRAMMES (127209)

12.00 CHILDREN IN NEED Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin invite you to join them this late-night entertainment as the fundraising continues. For more details, dial the number of... Summer, Holiday, Charles Aznavour, the cast of the musical Smokey Joe's Cafe and special editions of *The Mrs Maron Show* and *The Best of Auntie's Bloomers* (32685)

2.00pm Weather (7389410)

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## BBC2

5.00am OPEN - UNIVERSITY: Information Technology and Society (5085032) 6.50 The Third Revolution (9833894) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast (5618714) 7.30 Perils of Penelope Pitstop (4686551) 7.55 Smart (733445) 8.20 The Greedysons Gang (8751261) 8.25 Spider (5568071) 8.35 The Record (5647464) 9.00 The French Experience (5086651) 9.15 The Economics Collection (8805071) 9.45 Watch (4033880) 10.00 Playday (86551) 10.30 What? Where? When? Why? (8677006) 10.45 Revista (3655261) 11.00 Look and Read (5287100) 11.20 Show Circuit (7861484) 11.40 English Time: The Ancient Manner (5645501) 12.00 English File (21938) 12.30pm Working Lunch (51929) 1.00 Scene (61700) 1.30 Heading South (41280) 2.00 The Greedysons Gang (4633968) 2.05 Spider (4643391)

2.10pm SPORT ON FRIDAY Helen Rollason introduces racing from Ascot: including the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 races; Cricket

Romeo Innes previews England's forthcoming Test series in Zimbabwe and New Zealand; Rugby Union: A preview of the weekend's international rugby union matches featuring England v Italy and Ireland v Australia (746687):

3.05 NEWS (Ceefax) (5858735)

4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (7007) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (984) 5.00 Esther (948) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (454)

6.00 SLIDERS (s) (591483)

6.40 ELECTRIC CIRCUS (s) (398613)

7.00 TOP OF THE POPS (Ceefax) (s) (3919)

7.30 TOP GEAR RALLY REPORT A preview of the RAC Rally (s) (613)

8.00 GLUCK, GLUCK, GLUCK BBC2, 8.00pm

Television wine experts tend to divide between the exhibitionist (Hilly Glodden, Oz Clarke) and the quietly sensible (Jancis Robinson). Now meet Malcolm Gluck, whose bluff manner and casual appearance place him somewhere in between. His series is pitched at the ordinary wine drinker who may be baffled by the jargon and overwhelmed by the choices. First stop is a busy restaurant in Birmingham where Gluck declares his abhorrence of drinking lager with Indian food and suggests wine alternatives. He also compares two French wines from the same region, one costing £3 and the other twice as much, and assesses which provides the better value. Gluck offers himself as a demystifier and his chummy, down-to-earth approach should appeal to anybody who feels ignorant about wine and is reluctant to admit it.

Gluck, Gluck, Gluck Channel 4, 8.00pm

It's not saying it's disgusting", says Ian Wright tactfully, as he ticks into a lump of Icelandic shark. "I'm just not used to it." He is no more used to the local potato wine, known as the Black Death, but there is more funny footage to be had from his attempt to drink it. Our slightly host extracts further fun from covering himself in mud in the cause of a health body. A geyser and a glacier offer more orthodox travelogue material. Having exhausted the innocent abroad route in Iceland, Wright is off to do the same in Greenland, first reminding us that it is the most northerly island in what he calls the 'weld'. For that matter Nuuk is the smallest capital in the 'weld'. The cameraman does his best to upgrade Wright's chirpy chatter as he lingers impressively over majestic snowscapes.

Stefan Buzacki's Gardening Britain

BBC2, 8.30pm

It may be November in the real world but we will pick up the Buzacki roadshow as spring moves into summer. Our dapper host is in Aberdeen, setting up his plant surgery in Duthie Park, Europe's largest covered garden. A useful feature of the series is its willingness to tackle the gardener's dilemma, as well as the delights. Last week's symposium on woods must have struck many a chord, even if the solutions were sometimes less than magic. On the agenda tonight is invasive sorrel. Heading the garden visits is a tour of Crathes Castle. The gardens go back to the 16th century, but their present character derives from a redesign in the 1930s by a devotee of Gertrude Jekyll. We are encounter a silversmith who has created an 'anachoritic' garden on the site of a disused railway station.

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It may be November in the real world but we will pick up the Buzacki roadshow as spring moves into summer. Our dapper host is in Aberdeen, setting up his plant surgery in Duthie Park, Europe's largest covered garden. A useful feature of the series is its willingness to tackle the gardener's dilemma, as well as the delights. Last week's symposium on woods must have struck many a chord, even if the solutions were sometimes less than magic. On the agenda tonight is invasive sorrel. Heading the garden visits is a tour of Crathes Castle. The gardens go back to the 16th century, but their present character derives from a redesign in the 1930s by a devotee of Gertrude Jekyll. We are encounter a silversmith who has created an 'anachoritic' garden on the site of a disused railway station.

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## CRICKET 45

Why Simpson has little time for the English game

## SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1996

## Juventus show Ferguson the way to go

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN winter's bite is harsh, and your team is beaten by a penalty, it takes a grand game to warm 53,529 chilled souls seated in a football stadium. But we shall remember November 20, a night on which Juventus, the champions of Europe, dominated Manchester United with controlled movement and technique for half the game, a half in which it was as clear as the luminous moon that English clubs still have an awful lot to learn.

Alex Ferguson, the most successful manager in the British game, owned up after the final whistle: "It was a disappointing score, but not a disappointing night," the Manchester United manager said. "These are the nights of Europe you remember. It would be silly to think you

should dominate just because you are at home; the Juventus movement of the ball and their work ethic was fantastic."

So, in its fashion, was the way the will of the crowd transmitted to young players such as Ryan Giggs and David Beckham on United's wings, so that, for the second half, chasing the game, Manchester could at least recapture pride in defeat.

Such a wonderful, spirited, obsessional pursuit, this football. Alas, in Portugal in the same European Champions' League competition on Wednesday, came reports of a disastrous, foul-ridden, drawn match between FC Porto and AC Milan, after which a brawl in the tunnel was ignited, allegedly, by a malicious but from George Weah. The most lauded footballer in the world, a Liberian who could yet be destined to play for Arsenal,

apparently lost his head and hit Jorge Costa, the Porto captain, so viciously that the Portuguese player was taken to hospital with a suspected broken nose.

Thank goodness for the cold reality of northern England. There, the defeat, but not yet the end of United's quest for European success, had certain defining moments. One was in the fortieth minute, when Ales Boksic glided past David May. In full flight, he suddenly stopped and dragged back the ball, while May kept on running. It was reminiscent of Billy Wright and Ferenc Puskas, the lesson of another November, 43 years ago, when Geoffrey Green, in this newspaper, suggested that Wright was so deceived by it, he ran off like a fire engine towards the wrong fire.

What has changed is the athleticism, the speed and

stealth with which a man such as Boksic, whom Ferguson sought to buy for £6 million, guides the ball. Because Peter Schmeichel managed to block the angle, it came to nothing. But the winning moment had already happened.

Youth was at the heart of it, as Nicky Butt was drawn into an injudicious tackle on Alessandro del Piero. The

penalty, though induced, was right, and Del Piero was unforgiving from the spot. However, youth is not the excuse. Del Piero, just 22, is barely two months older than Butt, has served much of his last learning year on military service.

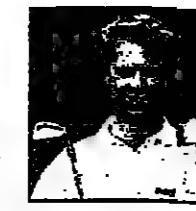
The young ones were only momentarily the heart of the matter. In the quiet of Old Trafford afterwards, both managers had something to say about the influence of the French. "The best two French men this night played for Juventus," Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, observed. Ferguson could not disagree, could not this time defend Eric Cantona, whose nervy finishing mirrored the statistic that told us United had an inaccuracy count of missing the target in ten of 14 attempts.

Didier Deschamps dominated the centre of the field. Zinedine Zidane, balding though only 24, strode forward and dispensed pinpoint and imaginative passes. "I thought Zidane was fantastic," Ferguson said. "We looked him four times at Bordeaux last season, but he has developed fantastically well.

"He has lost a lot of surplus weight, he's looking really lean since going to Juventus.

## GOLF 48

Way struggling to keep a grip on European tour



Brussels a  
take to in  
tourism

managed by Bryan Robson, his former protégé.

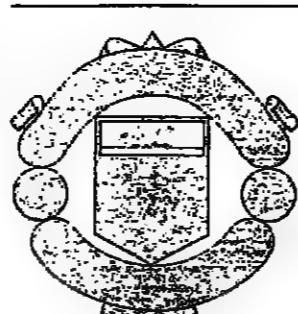
Yet the game of procurement is destructive. Ajax, European Cup finalists for the past three seasons, are a shadow of their former selves after the asset-stripping consequences of the Bosman ruling.

On Wednesday, Ajax lost at home to Auxerre despite having two-thirds of the possession and enough chances to have won comfortably.

But at least nothing happened there to sully the essence of football. In Portugal, it did. Milan were by far the more culpable in a game of 53 fouls, and José Carlos Esteves, the Porto team doctor, said he was an eye-witness, as was the referee, to "a deliberate headbutt by Weah. It was a savage attack. I have never seen anything like it, this is not sport."

No sir, but Old Trafford was.

MARC ASPLAND



## GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Fenerbahce	3	2	1	0	5	2	6
Man Utd	3	2	0	3	4	3	6
R. Vienna	3	0	2	3	2	10	2

RESULTS: Juventus 1, Manchester Utd 0; Fenerbahce 2, Manchester Utd 1; Juventus 1, Rapid Vienna 1; Juventus 1, Fenerbahce 0; Manchester Utd 2; Juventus 5, Fenerbahce 0; Manchester Utd 0; Utd 0; Fenerbahce 1; Manchester Utd 0; Juventus 1, Fenerbahce 1; Rapid Vienna 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Dec 4: Rapid Vienna v Manchester Utd; Juventus v Fenerbahce.

## Sheasby steps in to entertain at Twickenham

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR SOME, birthday presents come early. Chris Sheasby has been acting as the England rugby union squad's entertainment officer during their four days together this week but yesterday the replacement back-row forward came off the bench and will win his first cap, one week ahead of his thirtieth birthday, against Italy at Twickenham tomorrow.

Sheasby's belated chance arrived when Ben Clarke was finally forced to concede yesterday that a badly-bruised leg that has prevented him from training for the past week would not allow him to take his place in the back row. Tim Rodber will move from No 8 to take up the blind-side flanker role with which he is thoroughly familiar and Sheasby will take his place, joining forces with his scrum half from Wasps, Andy Gomarsall, and his club captain, Lawrence Dallaglio. Martin Corry, of Bristol, joins the replacements for the first time.



Sheasby: dynamic style

"No 8 is my preference. I like to control things and run the back-row moves," Sheasby, a part-time teacher at Farnborough College, Berkshire, said. "It is perfect to be linking up with my club colleagues — I certainly won't feel lost."

The highlight of Sheasby's career to date was his part in the England team that won the inaugural World Cup Sevens in 1993 but, to a degree,

that success has blighted his career. His elevation now completes a meteoric rise for a player frequently written off as a sevens exponent only.

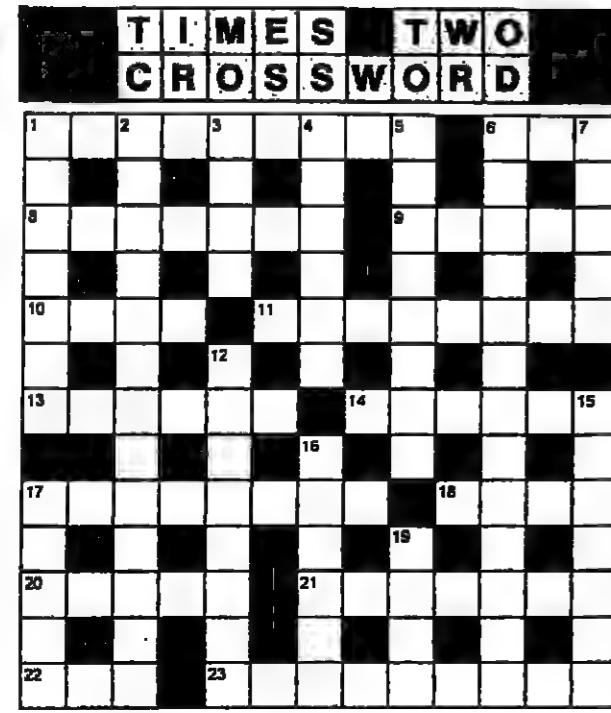
That Sheasby grinded so successfully for Harlequins was ignored until last year when England A recognised his qualities; his move across London to Wasps last summer, though a surprise to many, has been thoroughly justified in that their style of play suits Sheasby's dynamic approach and carried him into the national squad ahead of last season's England A captain, Tony Dirose.

That Sheasby also moved because he felt his loyalty to Harlequins had been undervalued is a matter for him and the club where he spent ten years. Towards the end of that period he did not enjoy the best of relationships with Richard Best, director of rugby at the Stoop, who may be in hot water with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) for derogatory remarks made about union members and the present England management in the most recent edition of *Rugby News*.

Best, the England coach between 1992 and 1994, and the RFU parted company on the worst of terms but publication of critical remarks of his successor, Jack Rowell, on the eve of the first international of the season will win him few friends. "It is not my practice to comment on or criticise the work of other coaches," Rowell said. "I do not understand the



The England squad, which will include five newcomers against Italy tomorrow, trains in the lengthening shadows at Twickenham yesterday



No 946

**ACROSS**

- Strong liquor ... (4,5)
- ... a dram of it (3)
- Adhere to (cause) (7)
- Warm and humid (5)
- Lie in furtive wait (4)
- Superficial, like beauty (4-4)
- Firework; severe reprimand (slang) (6)
- Grab (6)
- Frozen sweet (3,5)
- Slender, unconvincing (excuse) (4)
- Upright (5)
- Swimmer's air-tube (7)
- Child; another dram (3)
- One who comes next (9)

**DOWN**

- Unscrupulous operator (7)
- Resumption of friendly relations (13)
- Drive (animal) off (4)
- On which good learners are quick (6)
- Womanly (8)
- Of much value, interest (2,5,6)
- Settle debt (3,2)
- Rubbish, waste (8)
- Dealer; animal trainer (7)
- Sweet white Gironde wine (6)
- Clumsy; out of place (5)
- Tardious person (4)

The solution to 945 will be published Wednesday, November 27

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# Amnesty accuses Burundi army of massacring Hutus

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of Hutu refugees, forced home by fighting in eastern Zaire, have been butchered by Burundi's Tutsi army, according to Amnesty International. It said yesterday that it had also documented incidents of killings involving women, children and the elderly.

In Bujumbura last night, Burundi's military regime rejected Amnesty's accusations that up to 500 Hutu refugees, after returning from eastern Zaire, had been killed by its security forces in the latest incidents.

The London-based human rights group, which has a network of informers in Burundi, reported: "These refugees are being forced back to Burundi to face the same terrible human rights abuses that caused them to flee in the first place." The refugees, who had been living in South Kivu province, near Uvira, fled fighting between east Zaire's

rebels and extremist Hutus from Rwanda who were also living in refugee camps in the area. They arrived in eastern Zaire over the past two years after massacres at the hands of Burundi's Tutsi soldiers.

Unlike Rwanda's largely Tutsi army, which has generally avoided abusing human rights, which are closely monitored by United Nations agencies in the field, Burundi's army has had carte blanche to pursue a pogrom against its majority Hutu population.

Burundi's Tutsis, who make up 14 per cent of the population, seized absolute power from a tribal coalition government in a military coup in July.

Pierre Buyoya, a former army major, vowed to seek reconciliation with the Hutu majority and has been the target of strict regional economic sanctions since his coup. Since then, Amnesty said, 10,000 Hutus have been

killed. On October 22, 400 returns were rounded up in a church in Chiboke and all adult males were shot or bayoneted to death. Five days later 20 people were tortured and disappeared in the capital, Bujumbura.

On the same day another 40 were killed before reaching a UN transit camp, another 46 were shot and stabbed to death. On November 10 near Bujumbura, the human rights group said.

Other sources said yesterday that the number may be much higher as Burundi's army has also been involved in fighting against a local Hutu militia.

A similar pattern emerged for the north of Burundi. Refugees trying to get through the country, out into Tanzania, had been ambushed by the Tutsi army. Tanzania has been spared the turmoil which has raged throughout the rest of the Great Lakes region.

Farther north, Uganda has been struck by invasions of Sudan-backed rebels using eastern Zaire and southern Sudan as a base, and the future survival of Zaire's own Government is being threatened by an uprising in North and South Kivu provinces.

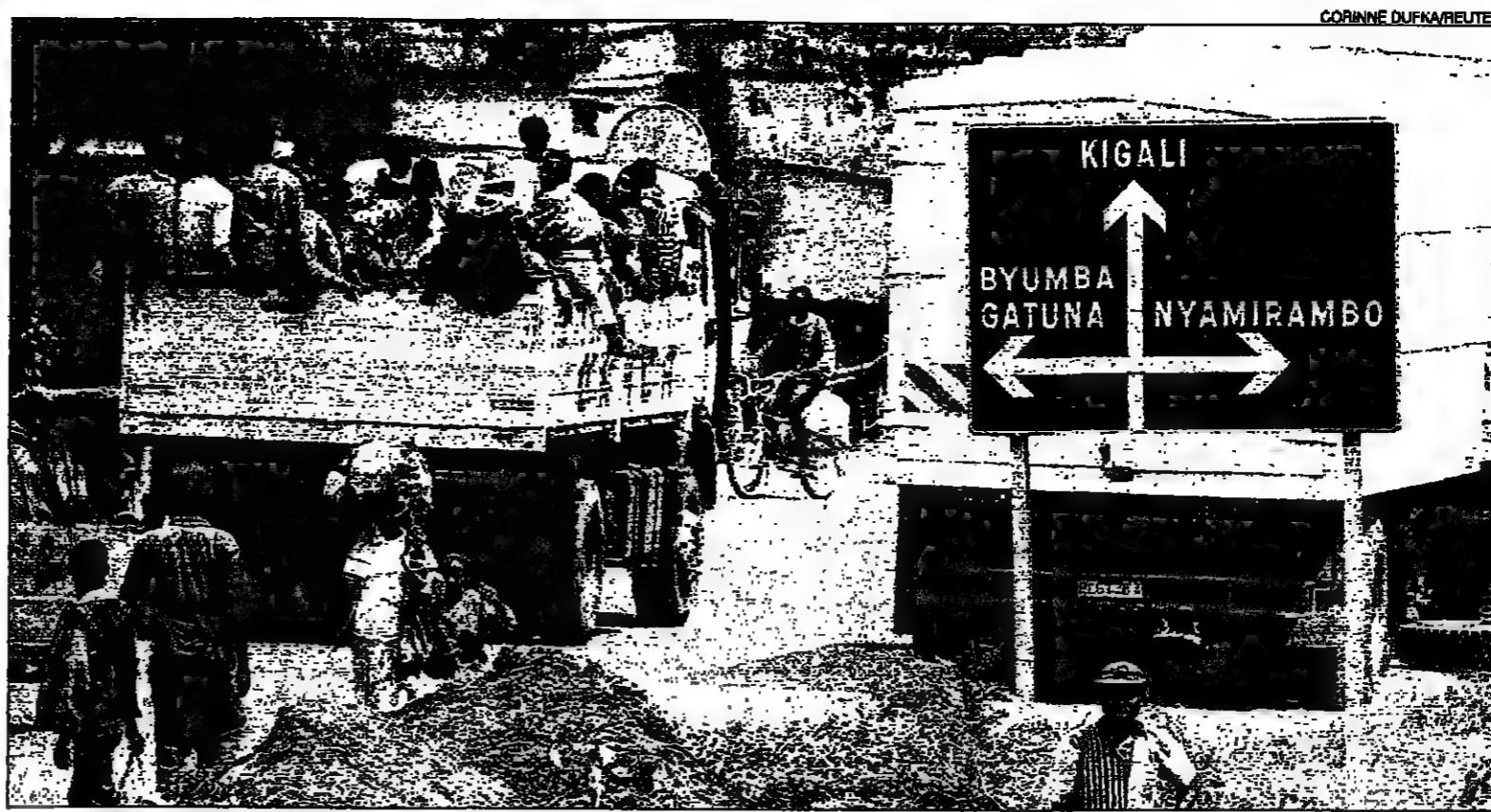
In Geneva last night, relief officials confirmed that recent aerial photos have detected about 800,000 refugees and displaced people in a swath of territory around Bukavu and Uvira in eastern Zaire. Of these, 650,000 appeared to be on the move, taking several

directions. Another 150,000 were assembled around makeshift shelters on the western shore of Lake Kivu, officials of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported.

United Nations investigators have also accused 18

countries, including Britain and South Africa, of selling arms to Rwanda's former Hutu military forces hiding in eastern Zaire, in breach of an international embargo. Zaire seems to have played a "central role" in the arms traffic, with Belgium, France, Italy, and Spain among those involved.

□ Kampala: A tour of the Ugandan-Zaire border by Ugandan members of parliament and security officials came to an abrupt end when it was shelled by Zaire-based Ugandan rebels. (AFP)



A truckload of refugees returning home to Rwanda from camps in east Zaire enters the capital, Kigali, yesterday on the last lap of the trip

## Racism blamed for apathy over aid

FROM LEILA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

EMMA BONINO, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, yesterday accused the world community of indifference bordering on racism in tackling the refugee crisis in eastern Zaire.

"How many lives have to be in danger before many people are willing to justify a deployment of troops by the civilised world?" she asked the European Parliament. "Is it the colour of their skin which makes the difference which leads us to believe that it is their inevitable lot to be linked to a cycle of massacres?"

Signora Bonino said a proposed United Nations multinational force was essential to allow relief workers to save lives in Zaire, otherwise they risked being killed or taken hostage. She believed there was an urgent need to disarm the refugees.

The Commission has asked the Western European Union, the European pillar of Nato, to consider how it could help the relief effort. The WEU has been providing logistical support.

Countries contributing to the force are due to meet today in Stuttgart to assess the situation after 500,000 refugees left their camps in eastern Zaire and unexpectedly returned to Rwanda last week.

Signora Bonino feared, however, that the mass exodus of refugees would diminish international support for those who remain. "An intervention was considered justified for 1.2 million refugees, and now they say things have changed. Is this what you call the civilised world?" she demanded.

She criticised the European Union's foreign and security policy for being too tied to national interests.

□ Kinshasa: The commander of Zaire's feared Civil Guard will take over as interim chief of staff of the Central African country's army, state radio reported last night.

General Kpama Baramoto Kata, a close ally of President Mobutu, was named by the Defence Minister to replace General Eluki Monga, who was suspended on Wednesday. (Reuters)

General Kpama Baramoto Kata, a close ally of President Mobutu, was named by the Defence Minister to replace General Eluki Monga, who was suspended on Wednesday. (Reuters)



Bonino attack on inertia

## Crisis in Central Africa

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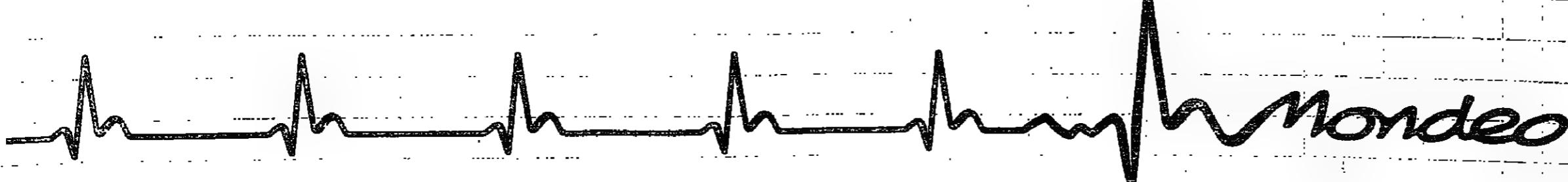
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# Britain steals a kiss on France

Paris has published a new tourist guide, which says you have to kiss to get the best out of the city, and it offers smart tourists advice on where to get intimate. **Joe Joseph** introduces the definitive British version

**A** romantic weekend in Paris used to consist of booking a room at a cute Left Bank hotel, dining in a cosy bistro, and then taking a moonlit stroll by the Seine. If you actually had a girl to go to Paris with, that was a huge bonus.

But now a new tourist manual — *The Kissing Guide to Paris* — says sleeping, walking and eating aren't enough. You have to smooch to get the best out of the city and it offers advice on where smart tourists can get intimate.

Recommended kissing places include beneath the Pont Neuf, at the Café de l'Hôtel de Ville, where Robert Doisneau took his famous 1950s photo of two lovers kissing — though if you're a coach party, take it in turns: disembarking at kissing sites en masse will confuse the locals into thinking you are an *avant-garde* drama troupe that gives impromptu performances of *The Decameron*.

This is just the sort of march that Paris shouldn't be stealing on London, which is again rated as the world's hottest city. Street corners are thick with American and European journalists writing feature articles about how "London is swinging again". Even Parisians are fleeing France for weekends in London to soak up some chicness.

So where exactly is *The Kissing Guide to Britain*? It's here:

Trafalgar Square Central and therefore handy for a quick smooch en route to the National Gallery, or the theatre. The symbolism is a bit on the blatant side, but there is the extra thrill of avoiding aerial bombardment by pigeons while you kiss. Some grown men pay £100 for this sort of excitement.

10 Downing Street: Exploiting his rapport with people, John Major will soon begin weekly Pope-like addresses to tourist kissers, reminding them that he didn't always used to kiss in a post house in Whitehall. Oh no. Far from it. He used to kiss in two rooms in Brixton. But he believes in choice. Everybody should be free to kiss whom they want to, and where (except maybe John Gummer).

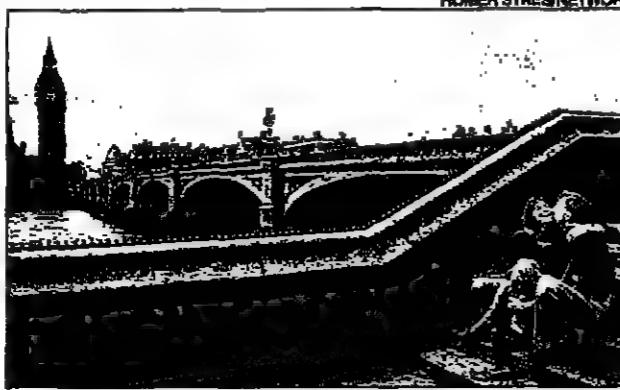
University College, Oxford: Bill Clinton's old college: for shy types on a first

date who want to try the kissing experience without having to inhale.

**Brighton Beach:** Perfect spot for film lovers who want to recreate the passion Deborah Kerr and Bert Lancaster whipped up in *From Here To Eternity*. A warning: you'll never get the pebbles out of your swimming trunks and for months afterwards you'll be able to sand whole planks of wood smooth just by sitting on them.

**Labour Party headquarters, Walworth Road, southeast London:** Ask at the door and Tony Blair will schmooze you while you canoodle: "Yes, kiss. A good kiss. New kisses. Kisses for capitalism.

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Try a little romance on the steps of Westminster Bridge

Kisses safe in our hands. A thousand kisses for a thousand years. Kisses for everybody, not just the few. Why? Why not. Why not? Emotion. Love. Lips. Red lips. Red Sierra. Red rose. Red Rum. Drink. Drunk. How about it? Why? Why not? Your place, my place, our place. Goodnight.

**Headquarters of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party:** Kissing is allowed, with one proviso: both parties to the union must be balloted first.

**BBC Television Centre:** A recent arrival on the capital's kissing scene because once only BBC employees were allowed to kiss inside TV Centre, but under the new Birsti regime at least 25 per cent of kissing has to be contracted out.

**Harrods department store, Knightsbridge:** Used to be kissers' paradise, particularly the lavishly appointed lobbies. But kissers have switched to

date after Harrods started charging shoppers £1 per kiss.

**Harvey Nichols department store, Knightsbridge:** "I don't kiss on the mouth," says Julia Roberts, in *Pretty Woman*. Well, the women in Harvey Nichols don't either, but don't get the wrong idea. Harvey Nichols is one of the kissing hot spots. Constant kissing in the aisles — though rarely for romantic reasons. It's not just mouths that are avoided. The convention is to kiss without any contact at all.

**Wembley Stadium:** A shrine for tourists who haven't had a peck for a while and are convinced that kissing's coming home. Just make sure a German coach party doesn't rob you of your romantic climax at the last minute.

**Glyndebourne:** Chic outdoor spot for fans of an opera-style kiss, a kiss, I said I want a kiss. (Chorus: "She wants a kiss. She says she wants a kiss"). (Second chorus: "Well go on, give her one. Well go on, give her one, her one, her one. Well go on, give her one.")

**Tower of London:** Favourite spot for old-fashioned men keen to kiss their wives in an historical setting: stony, forbidding, and covered in raven droppings — still she's good to the kids and deserves an occasional treat.

**Parliament Square:** Many MPs will happily sell you a kiss if you hand over £1,000. If they're too busy to kiss you themselves, they will — for the same price — ask around in the House of Commons to see if they can find anyone else. In Soho you can get the same thing but without so much stench, and the prices are far more reasonable.

If working out where to kiss makes you so edgy that it ruins your holiday, you can do what Woody Allen does in *Annie Hall* when he asks Diane Keaton for a kiss before they have even begun their first date, so there is no awkward anticipation hanging over the event. So if you spot planeloads of French and German tourists smogging in the arrivals lounge at Heathrow, indulge them: they're probably just shy tourists trying to quell their holiday nerves.



London is rated the world's hottest city again, and even Parisians are fleeing France for weekends to soak up its chicness

## The day I left my life at Victoria station

**T**his is a story with a happy ending — but by God it was a close-run thing. Picture, if you will, the scene at Victoria station last Friday evening. There are five minutes to go before the 6.15 departs for Lewes — time enough for a quick call to my weekend hosts. I balance my personal organiser (it used to be called a diary) on top of the platform 15, dial the number, find it engaged, gather up my luggage and head for the train.

It is as I am sitting in my compartment, lost in Fergie's breast-baring interview with Oprah Winfrey, that an image flashes in some distant cavity of my mind. It is of a personal organiser still sitting mutely on top of the public telephone on Platform 15.

With the image comes a sickening lurch of the stomach as the rest of the brain signals emergency alert. In a single movement I scoop three pieces of luggage from the overhead rack, fling open the door and race back along the platform.

The telephone that I had used looms in the distance, at first blurred, like Omar Sharif in the desert scene from *Lawrence of Arabia*, then finally in focus. It has no familiar little device on top of it. It is naked, empty, sans personal organiser.

I pass my hand over the space where I had left it, somehow imagining that it must still be there, temporarily dematerialised. But no, it has gone, perhaps for ever. My stiff upper lip quivers alarmingly.

I may have mentioned that a personal organiser is like a diary. The comparison is absurd. It is an integral part of one's being, a component of

**Magnus Linklater on a very personal piece of lost property**

the central nervous system, a generic *sine qua non*. A personal organiser contains, electronically stored, every known piece of information around which your life revolves.

These are not just names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates, anniversaries, notes, memos, random jottings and the time in Honolulu.

There are secret things of the greatest intimacy, guarded by a password which even your wife doesn't know.

But owning a personal organiser has a more insidious effect. Because it is such a reliable databank, the mind relaxes, handing over some of its normal responsibility in the memory area. Thus the half-agreement to address the East Fife Rotarians on Wednesday week, or the reminder memo that Great Aunt Clare expects a bed on Tuesday night, are left in limbo because we know that the personal organiser has them in hand. Reconstructing its contents is a hopeless task because the brain has simply lost the files.

**F**inding it therefore became my obsession. I telephoned Victoria station, or Central Rail Inquiries as it is now called. I knew things were going to be difficult as soon as the voice said: "Hello, my name is Derek. How may I help you?" I explained the problem in what John Major would call his specially calm voice.

"Oh dear, this is going to be difficult," said Derek. "Which train were you on?" I said I had not been on a train at the time, I had only been heading for one. "Yes, but we need to know what company you

were travelling with," said Derek. "You see, they have a special responsibility for their customers and I'm sure they'll do their best to help. Now, was it Concorde South East, Concorde South Central or Concorde Express?"

I know I have been away from London for some time but I hadn't realised that they had changed the language. I tried to compensate by speaking very clearly, rather as you might talk to a deranged lunatic holding a gun to the head of your child.

"What would happen?" I said. "If someone found some lost property in Victoria station — er ... I fumbled desperately for the right words: "... a railway operator, a customer relations representative, a transport services executive?"

"I simply don't know," said Derek. "You see, with this privatisation we're all a bit at sixes and sevens."

Luckily, I didn't believe him. We journalists have ways of finding these things out. Within a mere 24 hours I had determined that there is a Lost Property Office at Victoria station. It is operated by Railtrack Ltd (of course). You can't speak to it but you can leave despairing messages on its answering machine. A friend, to whom I now owe a debt in blood, called in and gave a description. A very nice man called Fred Fernandez, whom I claim as a brother, reported that it had indeed been handed in. I feel I have rejoined the human race.

Lessons to be learnt always

copy the contents of your personal organiser into a computer, provided you can find out how to do it. This will mean that you never get too emotionally entangled with it.

Paste a little notice inside the lid offering large sums of

money to whoever finds it. And make a note of the half dozen or so lost property offices that now serve each of our mainline stations — in your personal organiser, of course.

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# I've been in love, and I have had love affairs. But it's never quite worked out'

Sue MacGregor on why she would be happy to play topless darts — and the moment Fergie almost broke down during her radio interview

I was just after an interview with Kelvin MacKenzie about topless darts that Gary Richardson, the *Today* programme's sports reporter and, fall guy, asked Sue MacGregor if she would take part in topless darts. "It's on radio I'm quite happy," replied Sue amiably, unfazed as always.

The nation's two most famous redheads made a study in contrasts when Sue did the only radio interview with the Duchess of York — chronologically first of many such "exclusives".

Roger Mosey, the *Today* editor, will be on *Feedback* this morning to answer aggrieved listeners (80 callers) who disapproved of a prime-time slot usually reserved for political leaders, being given to such a trivial subject as that woman. His defence is that it was a terrific interview. If it lacked the jokiness of the Ruby "X" treatment, it had an intimacy and directness and millions of us were riveted.

"Yes, I was that very vulnerable, very fragile, very naive person..." said Fergie. "Very foolish person, too," interrupted Sue, equably. "Being without your husband doesn't inevitably lead to unfaithfulness." Sue went on, "and you have admitted being unfaithful to Andrew." "I haven't admitted it," said Fergie obliquely. "Were you unfaithful to him?" "I don't think that's relevant... It's certainly not mentioned in the book..."

Yesterday morning Miss MacGregor was enjoying a day off; she had been planning a trip to Paris by Eurostar. Everything, in her modest, sunny flat is neat, like her well-coiffed, ever in control, incapable of embarrassing anyone. For 25 years, on *Woman's Hour* and *Today*, she has been the consummate broadcaster, epitome of reassurance, the picture of composure.

Fergie's interview was just over, their assignment in a tide of exacting routines: the 5.30am alarm, her 4.30 arrival

at Broadcasting House, her 9am sessions at the health club. She is a veteran of royal interviews: the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew... When she asked Prince Andrew about love, he replied that when the lightning bolt happened, he would know. As they left the studio, he confided that the lightning bolt had already happened, as he had already met Sarah Ferguson.

So ten years on, she found herself waiting for Fergie in a

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Sue MacGregor, the consummate interviewer: "The duchess is not someone with deep intellectual resources to fall back on; and that was part of her charm"

bedroom in the Berkeley Hotel. "She arrived in a mat with her collar up, and no make-up. I thought she was in a rather crestfallen mood, quite close to tears some of the time."

I felt quite apprehensive about doing this interview, because it's more *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* than *Today*. But I thought, if Diana had been asked about infidelity, one had to ask her [the duchess], that I think her answer spoke for itself. Had I pushed her harder, I don't think she would have been able to continue in tears."

One newspaper suggested that Sue wrote a "mollifying" letter to Fergie afterwards. Did she apologize for her questions? "Absolutely not," said Sue. "I just thanked her for appearing and for answering the questions courageously. I often write, if it was an important interview and got a

lot of attention and was a difficult one for them to do. "She is not someone with deep intellectual resources to fall back on; and that was part of her charm. What you see is what you get. She is an over-trusting person. And I think the references to my man, which some people find hard to take, indicate that she's still dotty about Andrew."

Sue MacGregor, doctor's daughter, grew up in South Africa, which is why she is so addicted to radio: there was no television at all. Within three months of arriving in London in 1967, she was producing *Radio Newsweek* for the World Service, and soon serving a solid apprenticeship on *The World at One* with William Hanmer.

Her voice has no colonial trace (except when talking to Helen Suzman) but then she lived in Oxford until she was seven. She left school at 16 and for no proper reason skipped university, "a big regret", despite having shone academically.

Her younger sister, a teacher, has twin daughters now reading medicine, one at Oxford and one at Cambridge. "So I live vicariously through them, lapping up every detail about university life."

Was it a lack of education that made the two royal wives so incapable of coping? "That's an intellectually snobbish view," Sue said crisply. "Many people with several degrees can't cope with life. All Fergie did was spend, spend, spend."

As Ruby Wax pointed out — she is a great admirer of the Full Wax treatment — she'd pushed all that Couts money to good causes."

The only photograph on display in her flat is of Sue with Nelson Mandela in his jolly shirt at her home in Cape Town. There are no clues indicating a secret, racketeering life, and it remains a mystery that Sue has remained unmarried all these years: at least three men have told me they were seriously in love with her. I named X and Y. "Dear

X," she says. "Dear Y." I used to ask myself that question a lot when I was in my thirties. I suppose I've hesitated to take that enormous step, which comes so naturally to most people. It never quite came naturally to me. I've been in love, and had love affairs, and I still have very close men friends. But it's never quite worked out."

If Sue MacGregor's good

sense makes her the antithesis of Fergie, she is also just as much fun, and privately has none of the "nanny" aura. She gives dinner parties and amuses audiences at public events with the putdowns

used by politicians, from Paddington's "Good morning, Sue" (a rebuke for her lack of greeting), Norman Tebbit's "I'm surprised at you, Miss MacGregor. Had you read your *Times* you would vote all..."

She is properly appalled at the prospect of *Today*'s moving to horrible TV Centre and losing its central London location at the hub of the universe, and also its closeness to John Lewis's buying curtains, minutes after *Today* ended.

If there is a danger of the *Today* programme becoming too formulaic and self-satisfied, she says listeners are sharp with their rebukes. "Increasingly we presenters are

bombarded with e-mail, mostly attacking us for not being tough enough with politicians, not for being over-aggressive."

It is amazing that with her fine eyes, good cheekbones and ability to think on her feet, she was not snapped up by television. Desmond Wilcox did ask her to be on *Man Alive*. "He still can't understand why I turned it down. But as a TV star, she might have become subjected to the same unwelcome scrutiny as Anna Ford; her preference is for the intimate anonymity of radio. She hankers to do face-to-face TV interviews, as Jeremy Isaacs did: "But they probably consider me too antediluvian."

She does no homework, only "keeping abreast" of events without seeing *News at Ten* or *Newsnight*. Her old friend Sir Robin Day is useful with his compendious political memory, and she has just acquired her first PC on which she can access the *Today* programme's plans for the next day. She can also access an Internet website called *Live Cameras* in Switzerland. Here she can see that Klosters, just across the mountain from where she skis with passionate abandon every year, already has plenty of snow.

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# Who made mischief for Sir Robin?

Sue Cameron tells the tale of the spin-doctor and the mandarin

Whitehall is braced to take on a new and deeply unwelcome role as party political football in the run-up to the general election. Witness this week's row over the Tories' attack on Labour spending plans and the part played by Sir Robin Guise, the Cabinet Secretary.

The Cabinet Office described as "a travesty" press reports on Wednesday that Sir Robin had protested to 10 Downing Street about the suggestion that civil servants had improperly helped to prepare the Tory tax "bombshell".

Claims that the Civil Service furore had "derailed" the Government's attempt to tarnish Labour's fiscal credibility were hard to deny.

Moreover, it came only days after an outcry over Michael Heseltine's plan to make civil servants draw up teams of cheerleaders for Tory policies.

The press revealed that Sir Robin had intervened to stop the Deputy Prime Minister.

Now it is right and proper that Sir Robin, who is Head of the Home Civil Service as well as Cabinet Secretary, should step in and protect Whitehall officials from political impropriety — even if it does mean reprimanding ministers. However, to

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be seen doing it publicly, and moreover twice in a week, looks like carelessness — or worse. But in fact the Cabinet Secretary was the innocent victim, not the perpetrator, of an effective piece of spin-doctoring, intended to sabotage the Tory tax offensive. As one senior mandarin commented: "It does seem that there was political mischief being made here, almost certainly by the Labour Party. And the handling of the whole affair by the Tories was extremely clumsy."

The chief suspect is Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff and a younger brother of the better-known Sir Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's private secretary.

There is no reason to doubt Mr Powell's proficiency in the black arts of spin-doctoring.

It was the Government's anxiety to play by the book that gave Labour's spinners their chance. The Tories announced that the civil servants who had taken part in costing Labour's plans had followed guidelines laid down by Sir Robin. First came a report on the BBC, suggesting that in following Sir Robin's guidelines, civil servants had gone through every Labour front-bench speech, looking for policy pledges. Civil servants had in fact done no such thing, and would have been in direct breach of the guidelines if they had. But Mr Powell lost no time in drawing this report to Sir Robin's attention. Only much later that afternoon did the Cabinet Office issue a statement saying the BBC report had been misleading and drawing Labour's attention to the guidelines.

But by then the damage had been done. Having been told — erroneously — that Sir Robin had taken the unusual step of sending a formal minute to Downing Street, the

London *Evening Standard* had made the story its front-page splash by lunchtime. Labour instantly went on the attack, demanding that ministers apologise to the Civil Service. Attention was diverted away from the Tory attack on Labour spending plans by suggestions that ministers had been dragging civil servants into party politics.

Yet the Tories were quite accurate in saying that officials had followed Sir Robin's guidelines and behaved quite properly. Ten years ago, when he was Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, Sir Robin drew up guidance that is clear and specific. "Departments are asked from time to time, under governments of either party, to cost the policies and pledges of their political opponents," it says. "Since departments would provide factual answers to questions from MPs about the costs of identifiable changes in activities or benefits, there is no objection to officials providing such factual information."

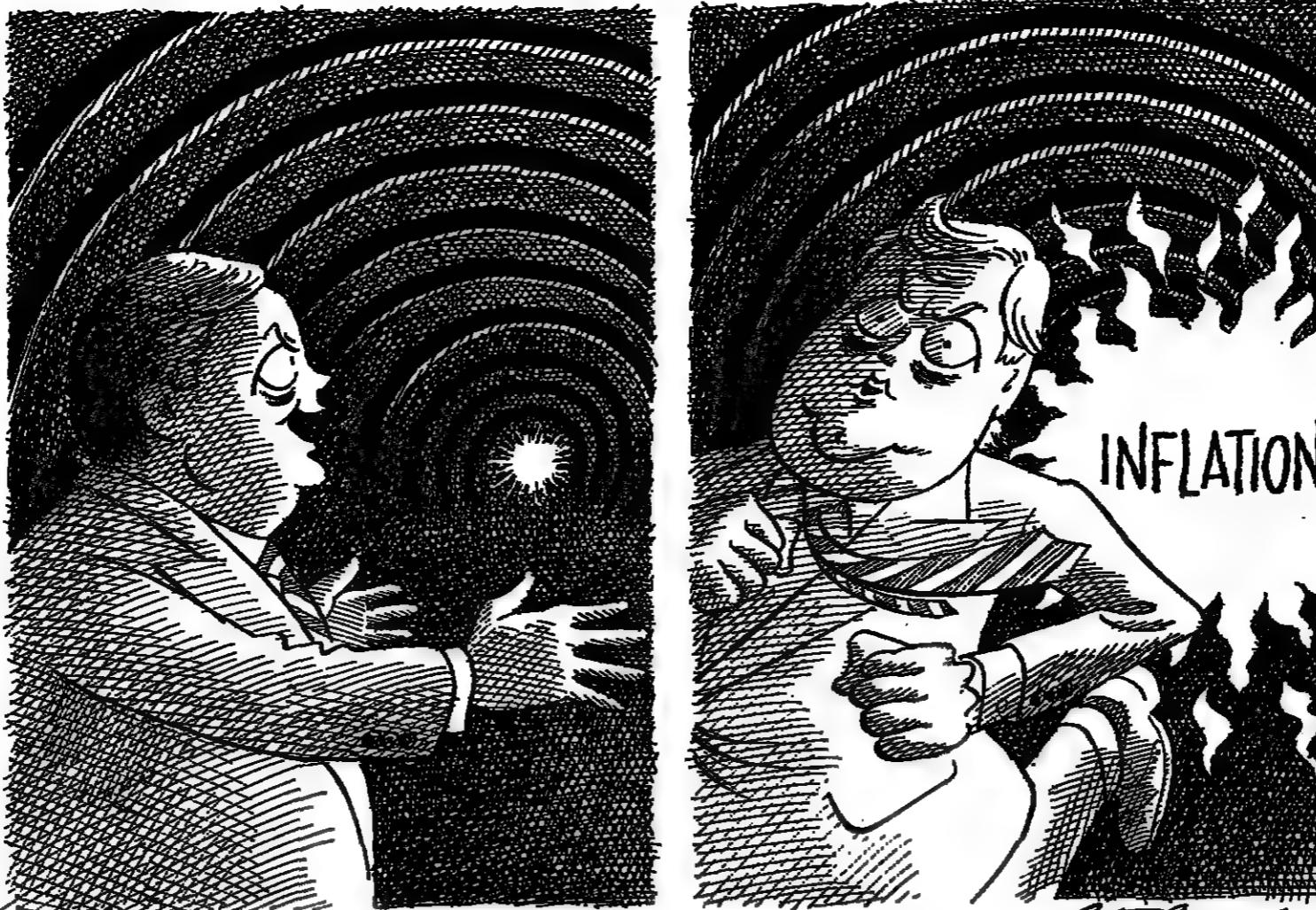
The emphasis on facts is crucial. Civil servants must never impugn their political neutrality by, for example, providing a minister with killer phrases for a speech attacking the Opposition. But they can and should provide ministers with hard facts. If ministers use these to criticise the other side, that is their affair.

The guidelines insist that ministers, assisted if they wish by political advisers, must identify exactly what they want costed and what assumptions are to be made. All costings must be cleared with the Treasury before being published. After that, the figures are out of Whitehall's hands, although the guidelines say that officials may "check presentation for factual accuracy and consistency".

Though Sir Robin denies that he was angered by the brouhaha, senior officials believe that he will lose no time in having words with Labour leaders, whom he occasionally meets at the kind of dinners and charity events where all parties are present. Whitehall expects that he will quietly remind Labour of the rules about not embroiling civil servants in party politics.

He will point out that the regulations cut both ways: a Labour government would not want its Tory opposition dragging officials into an election row. And he is likely to stress that, attempts to impugn Whitehall neutrality by either party could put a strain on relationships between civil servants and politicians — not a happy prospect for an incoming Labour government.

The public would lose too. Voters have a right to know the cost of policy proposals and politicians cannot be trusted to provide accurate information. The professionalism and political neutrality of the Civil Service is the only guarantee that the costings given to the public by ministers will bear some relation to the facts. It would be a tragedy if party political shenanigans were to put such work out of bounds for the Civil Service.



THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

## Luvvies and critics

So Michael Bogdanov wants us to see behind the curtain. Only a theatre director could be so vain

**I**t comes round once a year, strictly speaking once a year and a half. I myself must have watched the show for something like 30 years, until I could no more and gave in for ever. The pattern never changes, but the speaker does, very frequently, for it is felt that the tremendous burden would break the back, nay, the very soul, of so measured a figure.

Some fainthearts have said that surely it will be stowed away for ever soon (some scoundrels have even said that it should never have started), but I knew better, and I was right. The bell rang once more only a week or two ago, so it is fully fresh — or would be fully fresh, if it were not steeped fathoms deep in the stink.

What you ask, is all this about? If you keep quite still when the wind is in the west, you will know, because faintly, then less faintly, then loudly and then tremendously loudly, you will hear the complaints.

Which complaints, and who is complaining about what? Why, of course, it is the Luvvies who are doing the complaining — it is always the Luvvies who are complaining. And why are they always complaining? Why, because they think they have not got their true and complete deserts.

The Luvvies are coming! The Luvvies are coming! How many times, over how many years, have I heard that cry? And the cry is, was, and will ever be: "We are actors, we are directors, we are people of the theatre, so we must be treated and felt to show the world how important we are — so important that we, rather than the author, really should be taking the bows."

I tell you, and I tell you true, that there can be no trade or work or business or craft or vocation — not even a Member of Parliament or a newspaper columnist — that can beat the stage for vanity.

I suppose we all know by now about the new *New Statesman*. The rescuer of that dying magazine is Geoffrey Robinson, MP, who has put considerable sums into the *New Statesman*, in the hope — a good hope I would guess — of reviving the old mag under the editorship of Ian Hargreaves and turning it into a new one. Anyhow, browsing through the *New Statesman*, I found an article by one Michael Bogdanov, of whom I had never heard. But who from now on is to be called Old Boggars, for I discovered that Old Boggars was the

immediately important and indeed absolutely necessary theatre director, who directs and directs and directs, day and night, and even chunks in a bit of designing for the designs.

Very well, very well, get on with it. I do get on with it, for the whining begins almost immediately.

The whining starts here? But why should there be any whining? Stop and think — who is the enemy? The whiners think well of themselves, but that is true of most of us. Where's the difference? Step forward those dreadful, evil, disgusting, loathsome and absolutely appalling people called critics. Ladies and

gentlemen, the famous director Old Boggars has got a bad notice and the world must stop immediately and then go round the other way.

Now I have been a theatre critic three

times and each time I swore I would never do it again. (It took the third to make it certain.) The first time I heard that cry? And the cry is, was, and will ever be: "We are actors, we are directors, we are people of the theatre, so we must be treated and felt to show the world how important we are — so important that we, rather than the author, really should be taking the bows."

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critic that man this instant" or "you're getting your directing in a twist?"

But a man who can — and does — write this gibberish should go to his proper place in the theatre and stay there, viz. behind the curtain, preferably a very thick curtain. Hark:

Now it is said that Old Boggars is a very good director. I would be the last to deny it, particularly as I am not at all certain what directing actors is.

Do they run about shouting "director that man this instant" or "you're getting your directing in a twist?"

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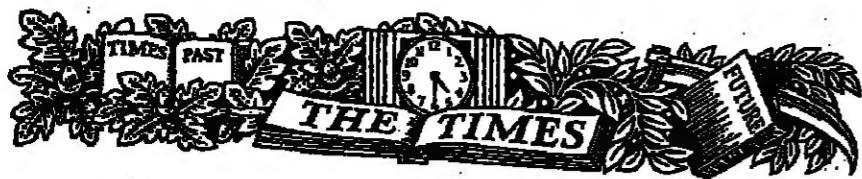
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## THE WATCHDOG POODLE

A single currency needs Parliament's singular scrutiny

Stealth has been the handmaiden of European integration, and democracy its brake. The difficulties encountered in getting the Maastricht treaty through the British Parliament and past the French and Danish peoples tempered the centralising ambitions of Europe's governing élites for a time, but did not reform them. The bruises only reinforced the need to shield the forward march of federalism from scrutiny. It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister should now be an accomplice in this process. By deciding to prevent the Commons properly debating plans for monetary union, John Major is treating the watchdog of Parliament as a poodle. In doing so he has offended not only constitutional principle but most of his own backbenchers. Even by the most cynical standards of the Whip's Office the Prime Minister is in the wrong.

The regulations that Mr Major considers adequately investigated after an agitated hour in committee are not minor legislative changes which should only detain the attention of the obsessive. They are provisions for the operation of a European single currency with potentially devastating effects on Britain's prosperity and independence. He has resisted calls to rule out British participation in a single currency because he wants to maximise Britain's influence over its evolution. That is, in itself, prudent diplomacy. But if Mr Major wishes to maximise effective scrutiny of the single currency, he should surely allow Parliament to debate its development fully.

Mr Major argued recently in *The Times* that a single currency created on the wrong terms could be a "disaster" for Britain, even if the British Government had not joined, because of the effects on our main trading partners. Vital British interests are at stake in the form that the single currency will take. This issue should not be smuggled past MPs. The single currency deserves singular scrutiny.

It is not just concern for the health of those

nations which do join a single currency, and their effect on Britain, which should concern Parliament. The regulations which Mr Major airily insists need no further scrutiny could, according to Martin Howe, QC, lead to a future British government outside the single currency, being fined by the European Court for following an economic policy in the interests of its own citizens.

The draft regulation on surveillance of budgetary positions could require the British Government, even if outside a single currency, to provide details of its economic plans to show that progress is being made towards "convergence" with the euro. Britain would not be able to veto such a provision because the regulation has been framed under Article 103 of the Treaty of Rome, as amended by Maastricht, which allows content to be decided by qualified majority voting. If a future government then submitted budget plans which did not "converge" it could face a financial penalty. Under Articles 169 and 170 of the treaty, the British government could be fined by the European Court of Justice for running an economy that was too competitive relative to the Continent.

It is bad enough that Britain might be punished for protecting its citizens from a single currency. The attempt to deny Parliament the chance to scrutinise the possibility properly is insupportable. It is not good enough to say that Parliament will be able to decide on the merits of a single currency in future. There is every chance that these regulations could bind Britain even if it stands aloof. If the regulations are innocuous then the Government has nothing to fear. If they are as dangerous as Mr Howe fears then a debate is imperative, because the single currency opt-out, like the social chapter opt-out, will prove a paper shield. The Prime Minister should not only allow a debate, he should also speak in it, if he believes that the opt-out he fought so hard to secure is still a sure protection.

## THE SPEAKER'S CORNER

In Clinton's new term Gingrich bids to be the come-back kid

With open reluctance in some quarters, Republicans in the House of Representatives have confirmed Newt Gingrich as their leader and Speaker in the Congress to come. The caution of his colleagues is understandable. Although a Republican House was re-elected for the first time since the Great Depression, many members suffered the fright of their political lives. Few could pretend that in most districts Mr Gingrich was anything other than a liability. Since the principled but ultimately unsuccessful struggle to force President Clinton into a balanced budget agreement 12 months ago, the Speaker has suffered continuous highly adverse public poll ratings.

Democrats and their supporters in the union movement exploited that negative standing effectively this year. Virtually all House Republicans were labelled as "Gingrich extremists". And, although more than 70 charges against him have already been dismissed, a special counsel is still investigating various allegations of ethical impropriety. Little wonder that a rather subdued Mr Gingrich has pledged a lower profile and less combative style over the next two years. If all seems a long way from the *Contract with America*, and its barn-storming first hundred days.

Mr Gingrich is not finished yet. His party has backed him despite all these difficulties because of his enduring assets. He remains an inspiring visionary, a supreme political strategist, and the man most capable of bargaining between the various interests and egos among Republicans on Capitol Hill. There is no obvious alternative of similar quality. Unless there is real substance in the remaining ethical questions against him, he will remain at the helm. Nor does he need to be that defensive. While Mr

Gingrich certainly overreached in both the scale of his programme and style of his pronouncements, Mr Clinton's second term gives him the opportunity to advance his agenda and remake his image.

Conservatism remains the dominant force within the American electorate. If Mr Clinton had not recognised that and swiftly adapted to it he would have lost office. The areas that Mr Gingrich will promote in the next Congress — eliminating the budget deficit, tax cuts, deregulation, smaller government, further welfare reform — are widely supported, even if he personally is not. Republicans are remarkably united, committed, and disciplined both in philosophical terms and in their votes on the House floor. This coherence will make the management of business somewhat easier for the Speaker than his slim 20-seat majority might suggest.

Mr Gingrich should also enjoy a better relationship with his colleagues in the Senate. Senate majority leader Trent Lott is now at least the equal of the Speaker: but that is no disaster. Mr Lott is much closer to Mr Gingrich in ideology than Senator Bob Dole ever was. The Senate over which Mr Lott presides has just witnessed both an increased Republican membership and a significant shift to the right within party ranks.

Mr Gingrich remains the enigma of American politics, alternating between the brilliant and the bizarre at breathtaking speed. If he disappeared from public life tomorrow he would still rank among the three most important Speakers of the century. If he proves capable of learning from his mistakes, then he can push forward a set of popular initiatives next year and dare the President to veto them. It would be dangerous folly for Democrats to underestimate him.

## MISS WORLDLY

Who is to define obscenity in the land of the Kamasutra?

Not since the Trojan War has a beauty contest threatened such dire consequences. Sniffer dogs are patrolling the giant stadium, two all-women platoons of paramilitary police are on standby for snatching arrests, bomb squads are in place and police will form a ring of steel around the arena in Bangalore where Miss World will be crowned tomorrow. In recent years the contest has provoked catcalls, demonstrations and shrill denunciation by feminists protesting at this festival of the female form. But rarely has it threatened a general strike or the self-immolation by fire of activists.

The bemused organisers can be forgiven for wondering how the popular show, likely to attract an audience of two billion people, can have provoked such a furore. India is a country where entertainment is big business: its cinema industry is one of the largest in the world, its festivals, pageants and wedding extravaganzas are occasions for public display, exhibition and exuberance. India is anxious to become part of the international television world, showcase its diversity and demonstrate that it is a thoroughly modern society. Indeed, Indian women have on several occasions been the winners of previous competitions, profitably capitalising on their success.

The Miss World contest has also made gallant attempts to get away from its past:

contestants have to demonstrate charm, intelligence, ambition and grace as well as an alluring figure. The most controversial section, the swimsuit parade, has already been held in the Seychelles, a setting where such kit is more suited to the landscape. As *The Times of India* noted yesterday, this is not a celebration of nudity or obscenity. And who is to define obscenity in the land of the *Kamasutra*? "Surely Indians are not so faint-hearted as to faint at the sight of a row of beauties parading in colourful, if sometimes abbreviated, costumes?"

But matters are not so simple. There is a distinct disenchantment in non-Western countries at being offered hand-me-down entertainment that has gone out of fashion in London, Paris, New York and Los Angeles. Some Indians have become resentful of the dominance of Western entertainment on their airwaves and screens. Hindu activists have denounced what they see as an insidious attempt by the West to undermine traditional values and subvert Indian morals. Many in the West would have some sympathy with this cultural assertiveness. And yet the first Indian kiss on celluloid dates back to the 1930s. India is a sufficiently diverse society to withstand a temporary influx of preening pulchritude. Miss World will be crowned tomorrow. But no one is obliged to worship at her court.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is fully considering the National Audit Office (NAO) report *Payments to the National Lottery Distribution Fund* and the evidence that I gave to the PAC on November 13. Your comments, meanwhile, are based on an inaccurate statement about what the NAO found; on selective quotation from the comments made by some members of the PAC at

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Some perspective on the tunnel fire

From Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Twickel (9th/12th Lancers, ret'd)

Sir, With the benefit of hindsight we are now being treated by many journalists in their superior concept of design, construction and operation of the Channel Tunnel (reports, November 19, 20, 21). If they had had their way we would still be squabbling over where to start digging.

The fact remains that the evacuation of the passengers from the tunnel was conducted with no loss of life and with best speed in a most successful operation. Of course lessons will be learnt and no doubt there will eventually be some modifications to equipment and procedures. Let us however not be drawn into unnecessary "knee-jerk" reactions.

Before the first bridge over the Severn Estuary was built British Railways operated a service for cars through the Severn Tunnel. Because passengers were separated from their cars and because of the bureaucratic and inflexible modus operandi of this now happily defunct body a journey which should have lasted 30 to 45 minutes took many hours with the result that hardly anyone used it and the operation lost money.

In Switzerland (a nation not exactly renowned for laid-back railway staff)

cars are loaded onto railway flats, passengers stay in their cars and indeed could in theory stand on the flats outside their vehicles. For instance the Lötschberg tunnel has two railway tracks running in the same bore and there is no additional service tunnel. Yet the safety record there is excellent.

I have taken my car both through the Channel Tunnel and through Alpine tunnels. I am very happy with the present arrangements. I do not wish to travel in a different railway wagon from my car as this will add time and further inconvenience to my journey. I for one would rather put my trust into the team of engineers and businessmen who made this most remarkable engineering achievement possible than those who only think they know better.

Yours faithfully,

ALEXANDER TWICKEL  
Tidmington Corner,  
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.

November 21.

From Mr E. H. R. Fane

Sir, A ferry capsized. Safety systems fail. Many people die. Ro-ro designs are questioned. An inquiry is initiated — but ro-ro ferries continue to operate.

A Channel Tunnel freight train catches fire. Main safety systems appear to operate. All people survive. Design is questioned. An inquiry will no doubt be initiated — but passenger services are suspended indefinitely until, according to the spokesman for Eurotunnel whom you quote today, "the safety authority has ensured that the safety of people is assured".

Is this fair?

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD FANE,  
15 Kyre Road, SW1.

November 21.

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, In today's leader, "Nightmare", you refer to Parliament being "told that tunnel services cannot be resumed until absolute safety can be guaranteed". But "absolute safety" does not exist in any form of transport.

Trans. ships sink, ferries overturn, trains, planes, cars, lorries and coaches crash. The history of transport is generally a record of increasing but never absolute safety.

As a former pilot, and as one who frequently uses both the tunnel and the ferries, this week's accident, which was without loss of life or serious injury, seems to me to prove that the transport services provide a safe mode of transport compared to most, and one which will become safer still as procedures rather than hardware are improved.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON  
(Conservative MEP,  
Kent East, 1979-94).

8 Wellmeade Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent.

November 20.

### Lottery watchdog

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, I am writing to comment on Valerie Elliott's report, "Lottery watchdog rebuked by MPs for not checking Camelot" (November 14), and your leading article the following day, "Hit number is up".

As a public official I expect my actions to be scrutinised, reported in a reasonably balanced way, and criticised where justified on the basis of the facts. Your paper's reporting and comment is unbalanced and inaccurate, and (to quote your leading article) any "bad publicity that [my] continuation in office has engendered" has mainly been generated by successive installments of *The Times'* long-running criticism of me.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is fully considering the National Audit Office (NAO) report *Payments to the National Lottery Distribution Fund* and the evidence that I gave to the PAC on November 13. Your comments, meanwhile, are based on an inaccurate statement about what the NAO found; on selective quotation from the comments made by some members of the PAC at

### Financial problems of Bar trainees

From Mr Michael Page

Sir, With respect, Judge McCarthy (letter, November 15), when explaining the historical development of the relationship between a pupil and his or her self-employed pupillmaster, fails to place it in a modern context.

It is, of course, accepted that pupils acquire invaluable insight through this unique training, but the Bar as a whole must concern itself with the financial burdens on present-day pupils. Without reasonable awards high calibre but impetuous candidates will turn elsewhere. Surely for the Bar to have a flourishing future it must endeavour to recruit people who accurately reflect society, in all its diversity?

Yours,

MICHAEL PAGE  
(Pupil barrister),  
1 Harcourt Buildings,  
Temple, EC4.

From Mr Matthew J. P. Roberts

Sir, As a second-six-months pupil I find Judge McCarthy's observations on pupillage ill-informed. The majority of people who undertake the Bar vocational course have done so in substantial debt from the high level of fees for Bar school (£5,500) and the cost of living in London. Most of those fortunate

enough to obtain pupillage have an overdraft at the outset.

Judge McCarthy's suggestion that a trainee solicitor undertakes work of merit which deserves payment whilst those training at the Bar do not is untenable. Pupils are required to undertake many tasks ranging from research and doing large amounts of paperwork to becoming accustomed to court appearances. Whilst those training as solicitors have both a guaranteed salary and to some extent regularised hours, those in pupillage are required to work whatever hours are demanded of them, quite often for no reward.

The judge's suggestion that a pupil should remunerate his pupillmaster betrays a lack of understanding of the modern Bar. I am astounded that anyone could possibly believe that the Bar is so different from any other profession that it can justify denying a basic level of subsistence during the professional training stages. This is a problem that is acknowledged by both the Bar Council and the Inns of Court, who are striving to ameliorate such hardship.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. P. ROBERTS,  
Verulam Chambers,  
Verulam Street, WC1.  
November 19.

### Budget appeal in aid of the family

From the Executive Director of CARE and others

Sir, If taxes are to be reduced in next week's Budget, should not the Chancellor's priority be to give help to those taxpayers who need it most?

In recent years the tax burden has swung markedly from single people without children onto married couples, particularly those where one partner stays at home to look after the children or elderly or dependent relatives. If income tax rates are cut again while tax allowances are increased (if at all) only in line with inflation, the main benefit will not be felt by families, many of whom are among the least well off.

The fragmentation of society, leading to poorer education and health standards and increased crime rates, has many causes but the increasing disregard for marriage is certainly one of them. We believe that the most immediate and direct way of helping families by tax changes would be to increase the married couples allowance.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLIE COLCHESTER,  
Executive Director, CARE.  
MICHAEL BOWEN,  
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark.  
JAMES HULLEN,  
Bishop of Hull.

DAVID COFFEY,  
General Secretary, Baptist Union.  
CLIVE CALVER,  
General Director, Evangelical Alliance.  
PAUL JINADU,  
General Secretary,  
Afro-Caribbean Evangelical Alliance.  
c/o CARE (Christian Action Research and Education),  
53 Romney Street, SW1.  
November 20.

### Going to St Ives

From Mr Michael Knight

Sir, Anyone going to Cornwall with the seven wives in mind (leading article, November 18) may end up at the wrong place. St Ives, Cornwall, (near Huntingdon) has some claim to be the town mentioned in the rhyme.

The tenuous evidence for this is that St Ives, Cornwall, was spelt St Ies (no "v") until the 16th century and did not rhyme with "wives". The origin of the verse may predate the inclusion of a "v" in the Cornish name.

Yours etc.  
MICHAEL KNIGHT,  
Quay Court, Bull Lane,  
St Ives, Cambridgeshire.  
November 14.

### Oxbridge blues

From Mr Tim Houghton and others

Sir, The annual graduate recruitment battle is upon us. As in every year since Henry II kindly set in motion the murder of Thomas à Becket — thus providing the impetus for the inception of those noble universities, Oxford and Cambridge — many of those tired and battered soldier scholars, retiring from the field without a job, are crying "Oxbridge bias!"

Oxford and its bastard child Cambridge (only kidding) are portrayed as bastions of privilege. In many ways this is quite the case. They provide a frighteningly effective education. The experience of alone defending an ill-conceived and fundamentally flawed essay against a tutor who is the intellectual equivalent of *HMS Dreadnought* is intensely valuable. It prepares one for almost anything.

However, the Oxbridge graduate earned this undeniably superb education. He or she was probably required to have attained distinction at A level. The Oxbridge interview can be harrowing; he or she will then have been made to work ferociously hard.

Our friends who were at other excellent universities are not made to feel guilty about their success. Why should Oxbridge graduates — who have, on average, extremely good academic credentials — be made to feel that they owe theirs to a sinister "Oxbridge bias"?

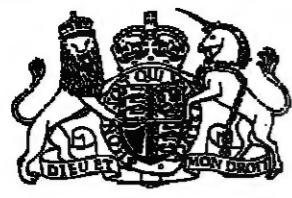
Yours faithfully,  
TIM HOUGHTON  
(Exeter College, Oxon, 1992-95),  
BEN PILLING  
(Lincoln College, Oxon, 1991-94),  
JON HOUGH  
(St Hugh's College, Oxon, 1991-95),  
c/o 5b Natal Road,  
Streatham Common, SW16.  
November 19.

### A Cambridge summer

From Dr M. J. Mitchinson

Sir, I think the champions of a longer summer term at Cambridge (report, November 15) must have been my younger colleagues.

In my undergraduate days, when priorities were different, it was common knowledge that the date of the end of the summer term was decided by the Jockey Club. They decided the date for Goodwood years ahead. Henley, in turn, had to be placed before Good



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 21: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Bedford Railway Station this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (Mr Samuel Whitbread) and the Mayor, Borough of Bedford (Mr Alan Bouch).

The Queen drove to Westbourne Centre, Westbourne Road, and was received by the Chairman, Queen's Park Partnership (Mr Thomas Wells).

Her Majesty toured the Centre, meeting some of those who use it, and opened its new facilities.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, afterwards opened Harrowden Middle School and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Councillor Tony Mitchell) and the Head Teacher (Mrs Cheryl Birkin).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the School, meeting pupils and staff.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, later honoured the Mayor of the Borough of Bedford with her presence at Luncheon at the County Hall.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, this afternoon, walked through St Paul's Square and Harpur Square, escorted by the Mayor.

The Queen afterwards opened Cynwys Wing, Bedford Hospital, was received by the Chairman, Bedford Hospital and Trust (Mr Gilbert Beedle) and viewed some of the wards in the Wing.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, later opened the new Brigade Communications Centre, County Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Kempston, and was received by the Chairman (Mr Peter Hollard) and the Mayor of Kempston (Councillor Olga Westley).

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Bedford Sports and Hockey Club.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited E.F. Taylor plc.

The Prince, on his visit, on behalf of The Queen, held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

November 21: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this afternoon held a meet-

ing of the Trustees Working Committee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation at Buckingham Palace. His Royal Highness, Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon attended a dinner at the Savoy, London WC2.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
November 21: Lieutenant-Colonel J. Murray today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of 3rd Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Riddell also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).

Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at the Memorial Service for Mr Gerald Darling, Admiralty Judge of the Cinque Ports, which was held in the Temple Church, this evening.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
November 21: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Dragoon Guards, this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Page upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Wanless upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, President, the Royal Community and The Prince's Trust, this afternoon attended the launch of Gifts in Kind UK at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales later visited Lorus Cars Limited, Hethel, Norfolk, toured the assembly line and a number of engineering facilities and met a number of engineers.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
November 21: The Duke of Gloucester, President, NABC - Clubs for Young People, today visited Clubs in the City of Bristol and Somerset and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr Guy Tidmarsh) and Mrs Gass (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset).

Royal engagements

Prince Edward, as chairman, will hold a meeting of the International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association at Marlborough House, at 9.30; and will attend a council dinner at the Army and Navy Club, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will attend a reception to launch the Crime Concern Services brochure and high crime neighbourhoods strategy, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, at 10.20.

Sir Ronald Leach

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Ronnie Leach will be held in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire in St Paul's Cathedral, London at 11.30am on Friday, January 20, 1997, followed by luncheon at Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4.

Dr John Newton Agar

A memorial service for Dr John Newton Agar will be held on Saturday, November 30, at 2.30pm in Sidney Sussex College Chapel, Cambridge.

University news

Cambridge  
Queens' College

Mr Murray J. Milgate has been elected to an Official Fellowship at Queens' College, from October 1.



## Service dinners

The Queen's Royal Lancasters  
Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancasters, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Corps of Royal Engineers  
General Sir John Stibson, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a Corps of Royal Engineers guest dinner, held last night at Chatham. Sir Frederick Crawford, Mr. Richard Murrain and Air Vice-Marshal Tim Jenner were among the guests.

RAF Strike Command  
Air Chief Marshal Sir William Watt received the guests at a dinner in night held last night at RAF Strike Command, High Wycombe. Group Captain A.I.B. Beedle presided.

University of London Air Squadron  
Air Vice-Marshal J.R. Day, Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group, and Professor Andrew Rutherford, Vice-Chancellor of London University, were the guests of honour at the University of London Air Squadron's annual dinner held last night at the squadron's town headquarters, Wing-Commander R.J.A. Powell, Squadron Commander presided.

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Royal Society

Professor Terence Jones, of the University Technology Centre, Oxford, delivered the 1996 Royal Society Energy Award Lecture last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace. Dr Sir John Horlock, FRS, Treasurer of the Royal Society, was in the chair.

European-Atlantic Group  
Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of honour and speaker at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at St Ermin's Hotel. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, president, was in the chair and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald also spoke.

Chemical Industries Association  
The Lord Mayor of Westminster attended the annual dinner of the Chemical Industries Association held last night at Grosvenor House. Dr Manfred Schneider, Chairman of the Board of Management of Bayer AG, was the principal speaker. Dr Robin Paul, president of the association, and Dr Elliot Finer, director general, received the guests.

The Golf Match Club  
A dinner was held last night at the Fishmongers' Hall to mark the centenary of the Golf Match Club. The Captain, Mr Christopher Palmer-Tomkinson, proposed the health of the guests who included Mr T. Harvey Douglas, Captain of the R & A, and representatives of many other golf clubs. Lord Griffiths responded on behalf of the guests.

Service lecture

Royal Signals

Dr Mary Archer delivered the annual lecture to members and guests of the Royal Signals Institution last night at the Merchant Centre, London. Major-General C.N. Last presided. Major-General A.C. Birrell, Master of Signals, and Brigadier N.W. Wood, Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) were also present.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) held its Annual Dinner at the London Hilton on Park Lane last night. Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, and Tom O'Connor were guest speakers. The President of IMechE, Professor Ernest Shannon, was in the Chair.

Memorial services

Lord Killearn  
The Lord Chancellor attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Killearn held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and the Right Rev. Simon Peter, Bishop of London, conducted the service.

Lord Killearn, son of Sir James Killearn, died in 1965.

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## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR HUGO BUCHTHAL

Professor Hugo Buchthal, FBA, art historian, died on November 10 aged 87. He was born on August 11, 1909.

An authority on the history of both Byzantine and Western medieval art, Hugo Buchthal was a scholar whose work, if not intended for a wider public, was in its factual tour to provide a fundamental source of reference for all other specialists in his field. Committed to the austere tradition of German art historians, he was drawn to his somewhat abstract and neglected field of research at an early age and remained dedicated to it throughout his life.

His finest work, *Miniature Painting in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem* (1957), was a model of its kind, bringing paleographical and liturgical analysis to bear on meticulous examination of the miniatures.

The cultural interchange between East and West was a persistent theme of Buchthal's work and provided the subject matter for several other publications. But he also wrote books both on the French and Italian manuscripts of the *Toy Romance* (*Historia Regis*, 1971) as well as on Byzantine painting of a later period (*Patronage in 13th Century Constantinople* with H. Belting, 1978).

Possessed of an extraordinary memory, Buchthal — though he worked whenever possible from original sources — could recall manuscripts he had looked at from almost any period of his life. Much of his research was centred around the Warburg Institute, which he served as librarian for some eight years while also lecturing at the Courtauld Institute. Later, as Professor of Fine Arts at the New York Institute of Fine Arts, he moulded the minds of future generations of art historians, passing on his own rigorous methods of strict historical and visual analysis.

Hugo Buchthal was born in Berlin into a cultured and financially comfortable Jewish family. He read philosophy



and art history at the Sorbonne before going on to study for a doctorate at Heidelberg University. There he was held in thrall by two of the most inspiring minds in his field: Erwin Panofsky, then Professor of Art History, and Fritz Saxl, director of the Warburg Institute — then known as the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg.

His academic career would probably have progressed unhindered in Germany had the Nazis not come to power and immediately set about imple-

menting their policy of the removal of Jews from all levels of German society. Jewish university teachers were temporarily dismissed in the summer of 1933 and Buchthal was warned by Saxl that if he could not finish his dissertation within two weeks it was unlikely that he would be able to continue, for the Warburg Institute in which his research was centred was likely to be closed before the new academic year began.

Astoundingly, Buchthal completed his thesis on the Paris Psalter in time, though he was later to expand and revise what he had done, publishing it in 1958 in the *Studies of the Warburg Institute*. It remains a basic reference point for scholars of Byzantine art.

Foreseeing the damage which a Nazi regime would cause to scholarship in Germany, Saxl, with the financial support of Remo Courtauld — who had recently founded the Courtauld Institute — arranged for the Warburg library to be shipped to London. There it became a focal point for Germany's

he was later to expand and revise what he had done, publishing it in 1958 in the *Studies of the Warburg Institute*. It remains a basic reference point for scholars of Byzantine art.

It was in 1965 that Buchthal was lured to live in New York with the offer of a professorship at the then thriving centre of medieval studies at the New York Institute of Fine Arts. There he found himself enormously sought-after as a lecturer and he, in his turn, groomed his best students so that today they fill many of the most senior academic posts in America. Buchthal also lectured regularly, travelling all over the world.

On his retirement in 1975

Buchthal returned to live in London, but continued to travel widely and to research at the Warburg until his eighties.

Although he would sometimes humorously describe his later publications as his *señitas*, he was a man of the highest integrity who ceased publishing when he thought his work would no longer pass the strictest scrutiny.

Hugo Buchthal married in 1940 Anna Serkin. She died a week after him. He is survived by a daughter.

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## ALEXANDER KELLY

Alexander Kelly, pianist and teacher, died after a stroke on October 23 aged 67. He was born on June 30, 1929.

NOT many teachers of Alexander Kelly's generation could match the influence he exerted. He gave a lifetime of service to the Royal Academy of Music, but his reputation was by no means confined to that single institution. As well as teaching the piano, he pursued an active and varied career as a performer, and was a regular and effective adjudicator of competitions and examinations.

The Warburg was evacuated to Denham on the outbreak of the Second World War and in 1941 Buchthal was appointed its librarian. Later, when the war was over and the Courtauld Institute was incorporated into the University of London, he combined this position with a lectureship in art history. Among the doctoral students whom he supervised at this time was Michael Kauffmann, later to become the director of the Courtauld. In 1949 Buchthal was promoted to Reader and in 1960 appointed to a Chair. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1959.

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He combined a capacity to judge at the highest level with an exceptional gift for inspiring young musicians of all abilities.

Unlike many distinguished piano teachers, Kelly was willing to embrace new developments in keyboard design and manufacture. He had a close relationship with the firm of Yamaha and often demonstrated its Clavinova range of electronic pianos side-by-side with 9ft concert grands. In the piano industry, as throughout the musical profession, his gift for friendship made him a popular figure.

His love of words was second only to his love of music. He cared deeply about poetry and published a small volume of his own poems under the title *Visitations* in 1986. Some of these celebrate music and teaching, others his long spiritual journey towards the Roman Catholic faith into which he was received in 1979.

More often than not, as he travelled on the No 9 bus from Barnes to the Academy, he would have with him a book of poetry — sometimes Greek verse — in the original. His intellectual curiosity remained undimmed after his retirement.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

## KENNETH WATKINS

prepared to take responsibility for the ownership and management of these fast-disappearing woodlands.

Run on an entirely voluntary basis for its first five years, the Woodland Trust has now grown into a national conservation body, owning and protecting more than 800 broad-leaved woods across Britain. As chairman of the trust for some 21 years Watkins guided its work, encouraging unobtrusive styles of woodland management.

Kenneth Watkins was born in suburban Bromley and educated at Merchant Taylors' School in London. But he had always had an interest in rural

life and in the late 1920s he moved to Exmoor as a farm pupil. There he found himself contented, not least because he had suffered from breathing problems in the polluted urban environment. He and his brother bought neighbouring properties which they farmed together for some years before going on to establish a business selling tractors.

The business was successful, expanding considerably during the Second World War when there was an urgent need for agricultural machinery and vehicles. It continued to prosper when he was appointed MBE in 1971.

He was a keen wildlife

photographer and won prizes for his work. His short film, *A Naturalist's Year*, won a Cine World prize in 1960. In complete contrast, Watkins also enjoyed racing Formula 500 sports cars and competed all over the country.

Watkins founded the Woodland Trust in 1972, supporting it substantially from his own resources during its early years as a voluntary organisation based in the West Country. He launched the national expansion of the trust through the appointment in 1977 of a national development officer, John James, now the trust's chief executive, and he pursued the Countryside Commission that the trust should become the second organisation, after the National Trust, to receive a grant for land purchase.

In 1985 he donated 233 acres of his farm to the Woodland Trust and, in 1989, he was advanced to OBE for his services to conservation. The British Naturalists' Association presented him with the Sir Peter Scott Memorial Award last year, shortly after he had been succeeded as chairman of the trust by a long-standing colleague.

Yet despite the vigour and determination of his campaign for conservation, Watkins was a shy and modest man who shunned self-publicity and eschewed the limelight. He loved English country life and even in his eighties, despite breathing difficulties which had dogged him since childhood, he could be found walking the woods.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1959. They had no children.

## ALEXANDER D'ARBELOFF

Alexander d'Arbeloff, entrepreneur and writer, died in London on October 30 aged 101. He was born in Koutais, Georgia, on October 21, 1895.

ALEXANDER D'ARBELOFF was descended from Georgian princes, military officers who had been granted their title by Imperial Russian decree in 1736. But although he lived in Russia for the first 25 years of his life — being educated first in Baku, then at the universities of Rostov and Moscow before serving as assistant to the Governor in Baku — in 1920 he and his relatives fled from the political turmoil of their native land. From then on, his life was to be one of entrepreneurial adventure.

d'Arbeloff first settled in Paris where he became interested in the burgeoning motion picture industry. In 1924, with the backing of an American heiress, he formed a company, Rodina (Russia for fatherland), later renamed Société Générale de Films when his cousin Jacques Grinieff became involved.

Grinieff, who had left Russia together with the d'Arbeloffs, was closely associated with Abel Gance, whose legendary film *Napoleon* he nurtured and acquired for the SFG.

Eventually resigning from his position as president of the company, d'Arbeloff moved into other spheres. He wrote two novels under the pseudonym Alexandre Darlaine and created a magazine of current affairs, *Audace*, which pioneered innovative techniques of photomontage.

However, being of restless disposition, d'Arbeloff began looking towards broader horizons. His next bold plan was achieved through a combination of chance, research, intuition and imagination. Studying a map of South America, he noted that the tiny, landlocked country of Paraguay had no outlet. What it needed, he realised, was a major road to connect it to Brazil. Ignoring any doubt or such practical considerations as the fact that he did not speak Spanish, d'Arbeloff set off alone for Asuncion where he soon convinced President Eusebio that the road was a necessity and that he, d'Arbeloff, was capable of organising its construction.

In 1926 d'Arbeloff, together with his wife Blanche, their two small daughters and all the furnishings of their Paris home, including a grand piano, set sail for a new life in Paraguay. The road project began and, despite a temporary interruption when the

President was killed in a plane crash and replaced by another unsympathetic to the scheme, was eventually completed.

d'Arbeloff and his family moved to the United States where in due course they were granted American citizenship. But he continued to travel, often to Brazil where he initiated other major development projects. During the war, he worked in the administration of a New York shipbuilding company.

Throughout his life d'Arbeloff's entrepreneurial enthusiasm ran parallel to a more thoughtful side of his personality. In later years it was this latter aspect which came to the fore. He published a book, *The Word Accomplished*, under the pseudonym A. B. Christopher in 1951. And in 1953 he directed, with his daughter Anne, an experiment in international understanding called *Contrastland*. In a villa in Florence, students from different nations were introduced to each other and to an understanding of one another's cultures.

Under the title *Who Do You Think You Are?* he conducted a series of filmed interviews with several well-known personalities including Francoise Sagan, Gipsy Rose Lee and Art Buchwald, though this was, in the end, never released. But his short film, *Report on Love* a comic view of the Kinsey report using animation, won him an award at the Cannes Film Festival.

For the last 15 years of his life d'Arbeloff lived in London. He is survived by his wife Blanche and by two daughters and a son.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEWS

**Major faces revolt over EU debate**

■ John Major was facing one of the biggest European revolts of his premiership as pro-Europeans united with Euro-sceptics to protest against his refusal to allow a Commons debate on the single currency.

Leaders of the backbench 1922 Committee were seeking an early meeting with the Prime Minister after he resisted demands for a full-scale discussion on three directives relating to economic and monetary union. Page 1

**Job agency boss helps Labour**

■ The chairman of Reed Executive, the employment agency, was named as the Labour party's latest big business donor. Labour officials told *The Times* that Alec Reed was giving the party £100,000, lifting to £6 million the total it has raised in individual gifts from business people. Page 1

**Absent fathers**

The growing ranks of expelled pupils are being swelled by children from middle-class backgrounds who lack fathers as role models. Page 1

**Dover boom**

The closure of the Channel Tunnel has brought a welcome return to the boom times in Dover with record numbers of cars and lorries pouring in. Pages 1, 7

**Sperm ban anger**

Diana Blood, the widow who fought for the right to use her dead husband's sperm to conceive, was outraged after being told she would not be able to take the sperm abroad. Page 1

**Husband was woman**

A transsexual whose 17-year marriage to a society heiress ended when his wife discovered he was a woman lost his claim for a share of their home. Page 3

**Royal prayer cut**

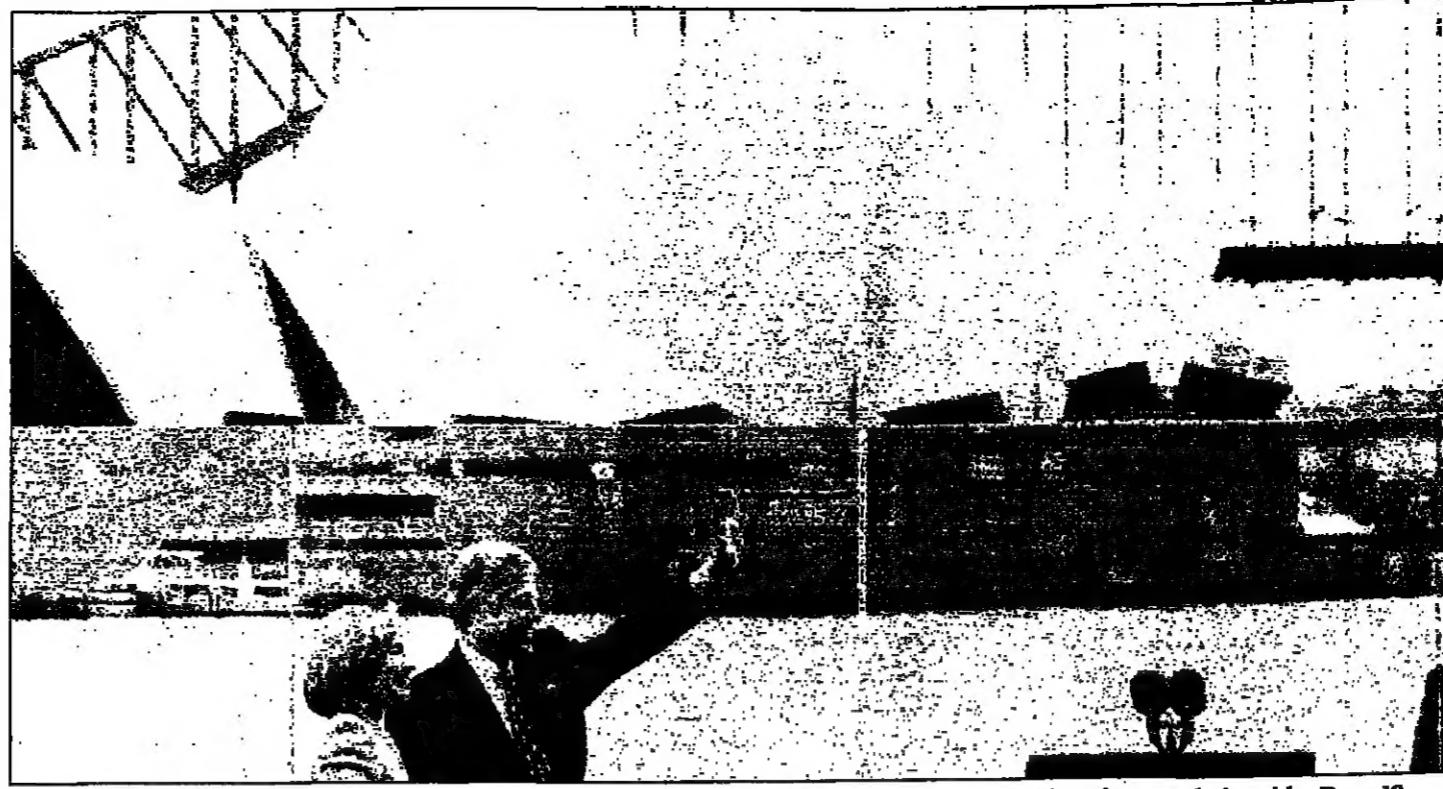
The Queen issued a Royal Warrant in which she removed the name of Diana, Princess of Wales from the prayers for the Royal Family used in Church of England services. Page 5

**Surgeon accused**

A surgeon was accused of putting the lives of a mother and her baby at risk when he refused to carry out an emergency Caesarean while another doctor was in the theatre. Page 8

**'Dead' man escaped from guerrillas**

■ Christopher Howes, a British mine clearance expert, who was reported to have been killed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in August, has been found alive in a central Cambodian province. A Cambodian Army general said he was "fit and well but very thin". Mr Howes, a former corporal, was reported to have escaped after eight months. Page 2



President Clinton with his wife Hillary in Sydney before he told Australians that ethnic diversity was their pride. Page 19

**BUSINESS****Coal: The all-party Public Accounts Committee attacked the Department of Trade over the coal sell off**

and questioned a success fee for N M Rothschild, the bank responsible for the privatisation. Page 27

**Alliance: A group of investors opposed to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society Notation has threatened to withdraw £100 million of savings. Page 27**

**Japan: An insolvent regional bank was shut by the authorities, the first time an ordinary commercial bank was ordered to halt operations since the war. Page 27**

**Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 9.0 to 3953.8. Sterling rose from 92.0 to 92.8 after a rise from \$1.6768 to \$1.6892 and from DM2.5110 to DM2.526. Page 30**

**SPORT**

**Rugby union: Chris Sheasby, the Wasps No 8, will be England's fifth new cap against Italy after Ben Clarke withdrew from the team because of injury. Page 52**

**Football: John Spencer, the Chelsea striker, has moved across west London to join Queens Park Rangers for £2.5 million. He is expected to make his debut for QPR tomorrow. Page 52**

**Tennis: In a little more than two hours of glorious tennis Boris Becker defeated Pete Sampras 7-6, 7-6, in the ATP world championship in Hanover. Page 49**

**Racing: Tony McCoy, the champion National Hunt jockey, broke the record for the earliest century of winners with two victories at Warwick. Page 52**

**Ode to a fountain: The prosperous Sussex town of Horsham has paid tribute to its most famous son, the poet Shelley, with a stunning new fountain. Page 44**

**Let's get arty: Lord Gowrie is leading the Arts Council into a brave new world of Arts for Everyone, and we are all invited to apply for a chunk of the £20 million available tomorrow. Page 41**

**Shock: American singer Michelle Shocked is putting a four-year legal battle with her old record company behind her and celebrating with a film album. Page 42**

**Princely: David Sinclair on the return to superstar form of Prince, the artist recently known as duff, with a sharp and inventive triple-CD. Page 43**

**Schools week: How to choose the right sixth-form school, fee-paying or state, when it comes to studying for A levels. Page 39**

**Bristol: A two-page report on the regeneration of a once-great city, now fighting to regain its former glory. Pages 36, 37**

**TOMORROW****IN THE TIMES****■ FOOD**

**Frances Bissell, *The Times* Cook, gives her recipes for the perfect Christmas pudding and cake, in the Magazine**

**■ SHOPPING**

**How to do your Christmas shopping in a day, in Weekend**

**Valerie Grove interviews Sue MacGregor, a woman of routine from her 3.30am alarm call to her 9am health club session after Today. Page 21**

**Worth a smacker: A book lists the most romantic areas in Paris for kissing. Joe Joseph lists the best places to kiss in Britain. Page 20**

**Emergency alert: How to locate your personal organiser, left at Victoria, when the train company names have changed. Page 20**

**Schools week: How to choose the right sixth-form school, fee-paying or state, when it comes to studying for A levels. Page 39**

**Bristol: A two-page report on the regeneration of a once-great city, now fighting to regain its former glory. Pages 36, 37**

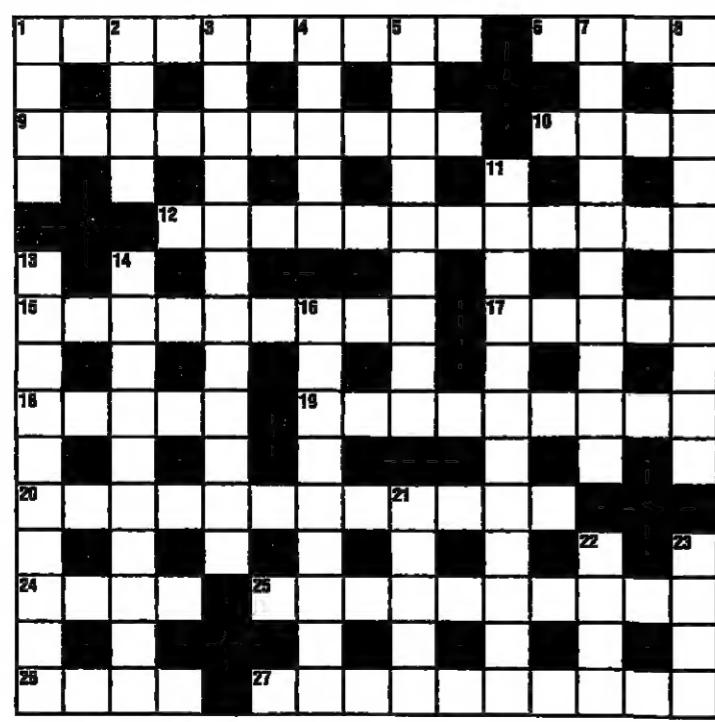
**PETER RIDDELL**

**By resisting a debate on the floor of the Commons, ministers have minimised opposition and turned an issue mainly of interest to the sceptics into one of the rights of MPs — a self-inflicted and avoidable row. Page 13**

**Professor Hugo Bisdorf, art historian; Alexander Kelly, pianist and teacher; Kenneth Watkins, founder of the Woodland Trust; Alexander d'Arbeloff, entrepreneur and writer. Page 25**

**LETTERS**

**Tunnel fire; bar trainees and financial problems; language teaching; Lottery watchdog; guidance to TV violence; the Budget. Page 23**

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,332****ACROSS**

- Where you might see koala in difficulties (2,1,3,4).
- Line unnecessary at the end to lower boat (4).
- Voyagers make haste (10).
- Standing back to make knot (4).
- Issue raised by right-hand man who's loving and giving? (7,5).
- Broad-minded worshipper, possibly, in the past (9).
- Bottle opener — vessel requires it (5).
- Superior poet (5).
- Follow-up to bill without a balance (9).
- Passing on oral — it isn't complicated (12).
- A lot of water gets state backing (4).

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,331**

**WHOOPS ASPIRING**  
A P A F I R S U  
I M P A S S E O D O R O U S  
S R I T I O N L I  
T E E T O T A L L Y H A L O  
L S R B S T  
I N S T A N T A C T R E S S  
N I O L A T  
E N V E L O P L O B E L I A  
I Y D L E G  
C R O W G R A D L E S O N G  
L L S A E D O N E  
I C E S H O W C R O S T E R  
M N A B R O N E  
B U T C H E R S F R I E N D

**25 African hell home to a Scot (10).**

26 Suitable presents, you might say, for this flirtatious female (4).

27 Being smart and good-looking (10).

1 Employed and unemployed seem equally depressed at first sight (4).

2 A record's range (4).

3 Where light may be located, in secret (5,3,4).

4 Bore taking drink with leading journalist (5).

5 English intimate support for community and its environment (9).

6 Give way about revision of rating scale (10).

8 Troubled lad we care about, tired of life (5,5).

11 Check noise of birds from Norway, perhaps (12).

13 Saw report on heroin, and article, accepted by yearly meeting (9).

14 In a manner of speaking, assimilating a clue (10).

16 Cross one river both ways on board (9).

21 Haven provided by American organisation on island (5).

22 In speech, depict member (4).

23 Bet poet's lost some money in the past (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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Moon rises 4.01 pm

Moon sets 2.58 pm

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Bristol 4.02 pm to 5.00 am

Edinburgh 3.54 pm to 8.06 am

Manchester 4.02 pm to 7.49 am

Penzance 4.30 pm to 7.48 am

Jersey 5.03 pm to 7.45 am

Leeds 6.4 pm to 7.43 am

Midnight 7.45 pm to 7.45 am

0100 8.45 pm to 8.45 am

0200 9.45 pm to 9.45 am

0300 10.45 pm to 10.45 am

0400 11.45 pm to 11.45 am

0500 12.45 pm to 12.45 am

0600 1.45 pm to 1.45 am

0700 2.45 pm to 2.45 am

0800 3.45 pm to 3.45 am